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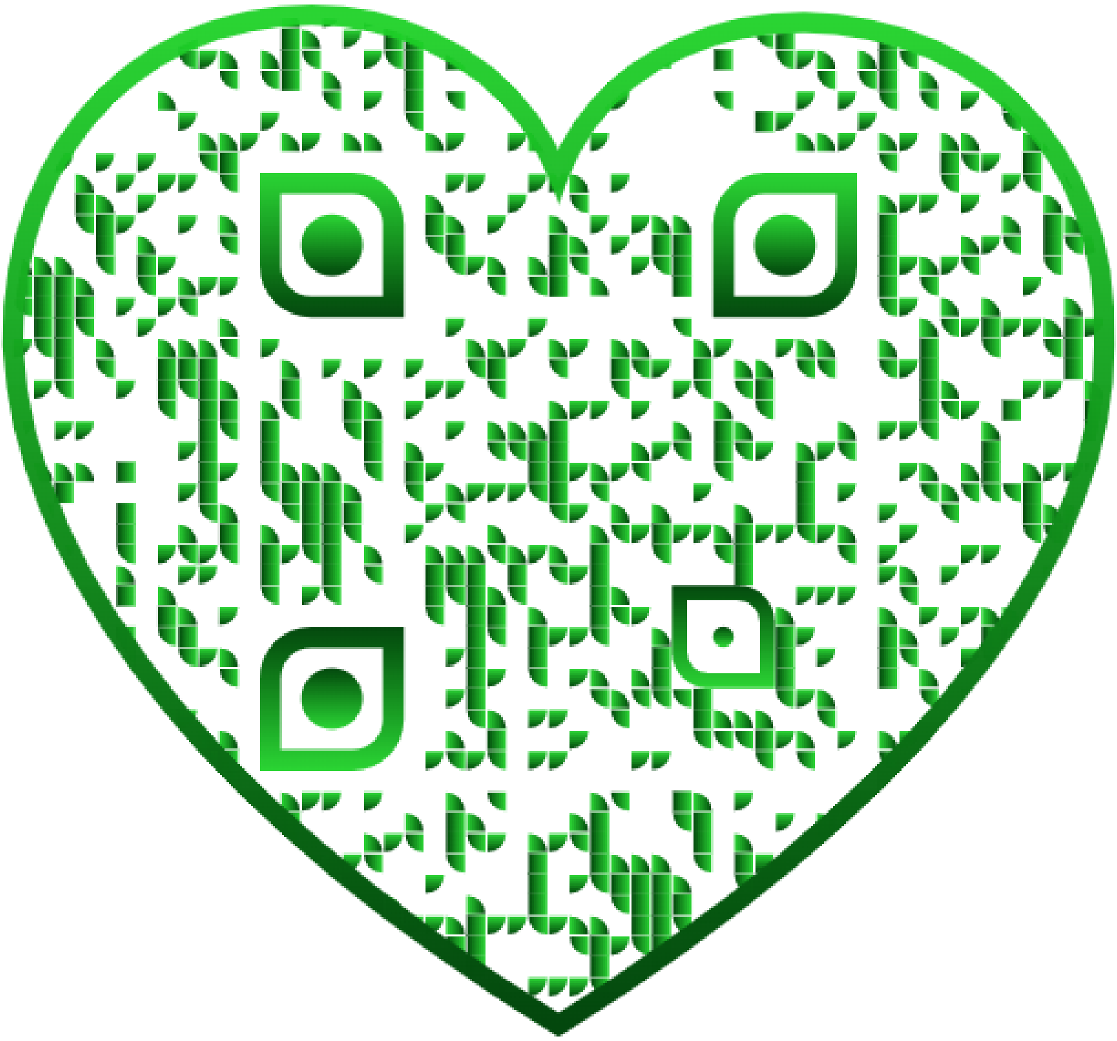

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WELCOME

> "I love how summer just wraps its arms around you like a warm blanket."
> Kellie Elmore

Judy Smith

Amanda Lawrence

Richard Chapman

Richard Chapman

VAL CHAPMAN GUEST EDITOR

Campsites at full stretch, busy eateries, cream teas and any other regional speciality you can mention available in profusion… August is the most vibrant month in caravanning's calendar. We're all hoping for a hot August – and for the sunny summer sparkle to focus the spotlight on the popularity of caravanning. If you haven't yet booked a pitch, head to our website's Campsite Finder section (**outandaboutlive.co.uk/campsites/campsite-finder**). In a couple of clicks you'll discover campsites galore. Before you set off on your summer sojourn, stop by at the Out & About shop (**outandaboutshop.hooluh.co.uk**), where you will find all sorts of accessories to enhance your caravanning experience. From gear you need, to gear that's cool and tempting, it's all here at the click of a mouse.

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Claire Tupholme

Daniel Attwood

Amanda Lawrence

Vivienne Crow

Susie Kearley

Judy Smith

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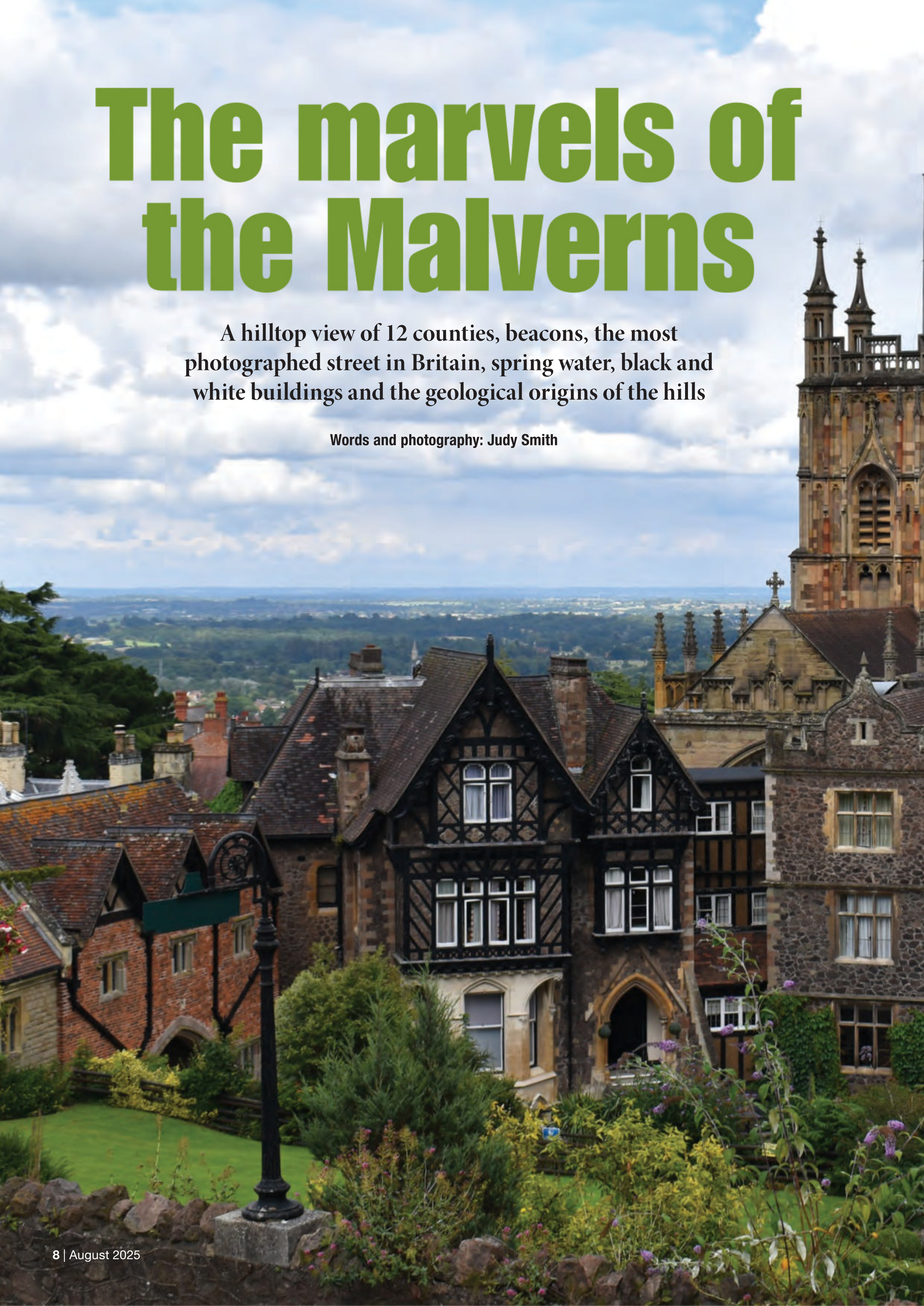

The marvels of the Malverns

A hilltop view of 12 counties, beacons, the most photographed street in Britain, spring water, black and white buildings and the geological origins of the hills

Words and photography: Judy Smith

MAIN IMAGE Malvern Priory looks out over the town

'The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there'. Those words begin one of my very favourite books, *The Go-Between*, by LP Hartley and, standing in the main street of Malvern, I couldn't help thinking of them. Malvern belongs in the past, and its pace of life is very different.

Even though there was a supermarket on one side of me and, around the corner, the theatre that originated in 1885 had just been given a glassy twenty-first century façade, you could still feel it. Malvern's soul is rooted in Victorian England.

This was a time when the great and good of the land came to partake of its newly discovered spa waters and Sir Edward Elgar and George Bernard Shaw would bump into each other on street corners. Well, they probably did – they were both here at the same time.

We were in Malvern to catch up with friends and, while doing so, to spend a little time in their area, and perhaps get some insider tips for what to see and do. After all, just about everywhere in the UK should have enough interest for a weekend – and in Malvern, where our friends, Ruth and Mark, have lived most of their lives, you could well extend that weekend to a month. So, where to begin?

The main street was the answer to that, where shops with quirky names like Rhubarb and Blueberry Button rub shoulders with equally strangely named galleries and tiny bookshops crammed with tomes of every kind jostle for space with antiques emporia and bistros.

There's a little pedestrian area at the top of the street where you can avail yourself of the spring waters descending from the hill behind and admire a statue of the thickly-moustached Elgar gazing out over the town that was his home for many years. Actually, there had been a Pride festival in Malvern the weekend before and the statue of Elgar was adorned with a Joseph-like coat of many colours. Nothing Victorian about that!

There's nothing Victorian, either, about the handsome priory that stands in the centre of town. The priory dates back a thousand years

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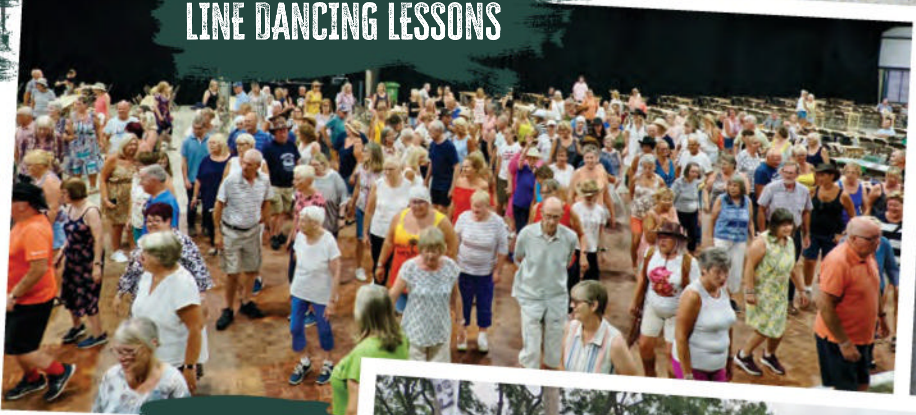

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and has some splendid medieval stained glass, along with delightfully carved misericords in the choir stalls. We spent some time trying to work out those said to portray the labours of the month.

That main street could keep you entertained for hours, but we'd been told that, for a real Victorian taste, we should continue down it, through leafy suburbs to the station. There can't be a more elegant station than Malvern!

Its architect, back in 1862, was one Edmund Wallace Elmslie and there it stands today, a rich stone building where wrought iron pillars with brightly painted floral capitals support a deep canopy over the main platform.

ABOVE CLOCKWISE Malvern Priory; Ledbury Market Hall; Malvern Theatre in its gardens

TOP TIPS

- Don't forget your walking boots – although trainers should do the job perfectly well in fine weather
- Car parks in the hills all belong to the Malvern Hills Trust, with a charge of £5.25 per day (although a ticket can be used in any of the trust car parks during the purchase day). In the town, short-term parking is much cheaper
- Walk the hills. Our favourites are the climb to Herefordshire Beacon from Wynds Point (on the Ledbury road) and the walk from the same place across Pinnacle Hill to Wyche Cutting
- The stained glass windows and misericords in Malvern Priory are a must-see while you visit here

The town of Malvern is full of interest but you would be missing out seriously if you didn't get out into the hills that frame it. That long line of steep bracken-clad slopes neatly divides the plains of Worcestershire from the patchwork fields of Herefordshire and you have to wonder what long-ago geological cataclysm caused its creation. We got a bit of insight into that later but, for the moment, it was just a question of where to go.

Years back, we had walked the whole 10-mile length of those hills; a glorious hike, but that would take all day. For the moment, we aimed for Herefordshire Beacon, the one whose profile instantly identifies it as an Iron Age hill fort and from whose summit 12 counties are said to be in view, along with the classic line of hills to the north and south.

On that hilltop, we were met by a barking dachshund on a 15m lead (Meg, our border collie, must have felt a little miffed at her 2m restriction) but the prospect of the hills was as splendid as we had remembered, the gentle whaleback topped by Pinnacle Hill going on to the conical peak of Worcestershire Beacon, and the lesser bump of North Hill beyond.

There's something about the Malverns that makes you want to name every summit. Herefordshire Beacon's distinction is that it claims to have been the last stand of the Celts against the invading Roman armies (and, as such, has the alter-ego, British Camp). Sir Edward Elgar took that story for his epic cantata, *Caractacus*, and for sure, many of his diverse compositions drew their inspiration from his wanderings in these hills.

Back at ground level, our friends suggested we visit the Malvern Hills GeoCentre, and they were right on several counts. Firstly, although its displays amounted to just a few rocks and fossils, there were some excellent leaflets on the area's geology and we discovered that the Malverns arose from a collision of tectonic plates, and that their igneous rocks are some of the oldest in the British Isles.

And finally, there's the Tramper. Eric was quite taken with this four-wheeled mobility scooter that could be hired very cheaply to take you to the top of nearby Worcestershire Beacon. There it was, standing in a corner waiting for its next driver, and he'd have loved to have a go, but truly, he could walk it quite well – and that's what we did.

i

● The excellent tourist office in the centre of Malvern can offer you anything you might want, from maps to free walking and cycling leaflets, along with brochures on attractions the length and breadth of Worcestershire. There's quite a lot on its website, too; **visitthemalverns.org**

It's an easy climb on a hard-surfaced track all the way up Worcestershire Beacon, which is the Malverns' highest point (425m). At the summit there's a column commemorating 60 years of Queen Victoria's reign, and the views extend across North Hill to a very distant horizon, but I could be mean to Worcestershire Beacon, and say it's not quite as lovely as the hills to the south.

The GeoCentre is on the western side of the hills, the side facing Herefordshire and we decided to head a few miles down the road to Ledbury. It's one of Herefordshire's black and white towns and it had looked very attractive when we had passed through on the way here.

Ledbury's most obvious feature is its Market House, a large sixteenth century half-timbered building raised on black oak columns beside the main street. Markets are still held under its canopy but the building itself, previously used as a grain store and council offices, now hosts only temporary functions.

Rather less obviously tucked behind the Market House is Ledbury's true centre of interest. Church Lane proclaims itself 'the most photographed street in Britain'.

Well, maybe; you can probably think of others, but certainly the cameras were out in force there. Those magpie buildings and the narrow, cobbled pathway between them perfectly frame the church spire at its end.

There's a fifteenth century inn, and a Heritage Centre beneath the sagging beams of the Old Grammar School, but we didn't get to see Ledbury's real prize, the Painted Room. Check the opening times if you come this way. The restoration of the first house in the lane, where the council now meets, revealed extensive Elizabethan wall painting beneath the plasterwork and free tours are on offer on certain days.

If you are thinking of going away for a weekend in this area, there are four questions that might spring to your mind. The first, where to enjoy a walk, is easily answered in the Malverns.

There's no problem with where to cycle, either. The tourist office in Malvern has a whole stack of leaflets leading you through back lanes, and seems keen to direct you in the 'wheel tracks' of Elgar. If he could do them on his old boneshaker, those routes can't be too demanding.

Entertainment for children was soon filled in by Ruth telling us that Eastnor Castle, near Ledbury, has an adventure playground, treetop walkway, and much more.And the fourth question?

Well, of course, it's what to do if it's raining. And on our last morning, we needed an answer to that one!

I suggested going to Elgar's birthplace, just a few miles north of Malvern. We'd been there a few years back and I wanted to wallow again in all those original scores and personal items (they've even got the buttonhole flower from his wedding – now who would think of keeping that?).

You'd think we'd learn! We should have checked the opening times. All we could do ››

Herefordshire Beacon's distinction is that it claims to have been the last stand of the Celts against the invading Roman armies

BELOW
Looking north from Herefordshire Beacon

was look at the posters by the gate in the downpour.

Plan B was needed and we thought of Upton-upon-Severn.

Our first port of call was the charity antiques shop in a side lane. Its rooms were packed to the rafters with pottery, clothes, books, glassware, a gallimaufry of tiny items – our only problem was Meg's wagging tail. There had to be something you just needed in there, and there was, but guarding that tail defeated us.

On, then, to the town museum in a handsome old black and white building. It welcomed dogs and the tail had a little more room as we inspected its three-floor collection of items brought in by local residents. Some of the kitchenware upstairs we remembered from our youth. Oh dear!

The Heritage Centre in Upton's famous so-called pepperpot tower was closed, as was the Pudding Shop (I'd really fancied that one) but, joy of joys, The Map Shop was open. We'd been in there before, so we knew we were in for a treat.

In the drawers, cupboards and shelves of The Map Shop (not an imaginative name!) are maps from all over the world. Last time we had been in there we had come across the excellent cycle map of the Bodensee that sparked our venture there; now we were looking for a cycle map of the Dutch coast showing all the numbered node points. No problem with that – but then I don't think there would have been a problem with Siberia, or Thailand, or the Amazon rainforest.

By the time we left that shop the sun was shining. There was just time for a cup of coffee on the flower-decked quayside of the Severn before we set off for home.

Driving north from Upton, across the fields we could see the whole line of the Malverns, the sun picking out the bracken patterns on their slopes: Chase End, Raggedstone, Midsummer, Swinyard, Herefordshire Beacon, Pinnacle, Worcestershire Beacon, North Hill… ■

ABOVE CLOCKWISE Town Museum, Upton upon Severn; Ledbury Market Hall; Floral riverside at Upton

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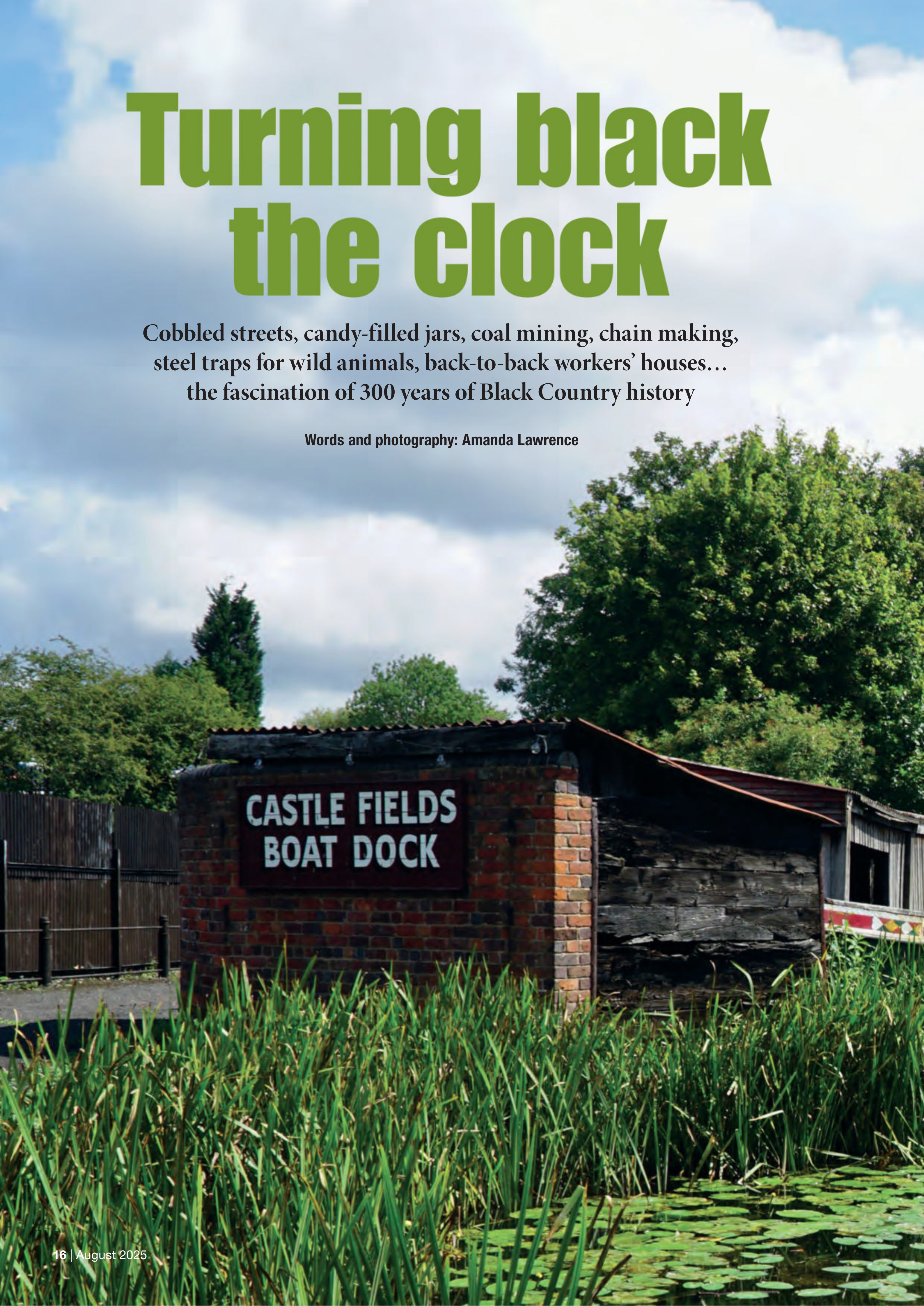
Turning black the clock

Cobbled streets, candy-filled jars, coal mining, chain making, steel traps for wild animals, back-to-back workers' houses… the fascination of 300 years of Black Country history

Words and photography: Amanda Lawrence



It's not often that a visit to a museum has you seeing, hearing, smelling and even tasting the past, but the Black Country Living Museum, just north of Dudley, 10 miles west of Birmingham, has you doing just that. Having purchased our *Peaky Blinders* caps – the museum was used for filming during the TV series – in the gift shop, we stepped back in time for a peek into Black Country history.

Our journey started with a half-an-hour visit down an 1850s slip mine, wearing hard hats and sharing torches that emitted light equivalent to a candle, for an authentic experience. As our eyes slowly adjusted to the darkness, we ducked under pit props before stopping to listen to our guide, Eliza Wedge, suitably dressed in period costume.

Torches were temporarily switched off to appreciate the absolute blackness… it was almost tangible. A model of a small boy sitting on a rock was then dimly illuminated and the tale of 'Little Billy' was told. An airflow in a mine was controlled by heavy doors and Billy had the job of swinging them open to allow coal carriages through. This was particularly poignant since I recently traced Andy's family tree and discovered that, in 1901, his grandfather's brother was working as a colliery door boy, aged 13, in a Welsh mine.

We moved on in our meagre light before stopping again to see a 'miner' lying on his back undercutting the coal, and another balancing precariously on a ladder… all very arduous and dangerous. As we walked between models and stories there was the sound of water dripping in the background, the tapping of pickaxes and the rumble of a distant collapse. »

CASTLE FIELDS DOCK
BOAT BUILDING & REPAIR

MAIN IMAGE The canal wharf at the museum

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As we returned to daylight it was with a much greater empathy for my husband's descendants and those like them. Above ground, the colliery buildings housed the winding engine, and the mine manager sat in his office dressed in corduroy trousers, waistcoat and cap, drinking from an enamel cup and chatting about his work.

Like all the staff at the museum, his knowledge was extensive and delivered in a very authentic manner. Outside his office, coal spilled from sacks, giving it all a very realistic feel.

I should make it clear at this point, that all the buildings and their contents are genuinely old, dismantled brick by brick from other local locations and carefully reassembled within the 26 acres of the museum. The site was formerly industrial land, partly a railway goods yard with disused lime kilns, former coal pits and linked to the canal network. These features are now restored and used to tell the story of the last 300 years in the Black Country.

Whilst we were in 'Sidebotham's Steel Trap Works' a visitor alongside us reflected on having visited the factory when it operated in Wednesfield and commented on its authenticity, incorrect only in that it had originally been considerably dirtier!! Sidebotham's was the country's largest producer of gin traps, selling 80% of its traps overseas; lion traps to Africa, bear traps to Canada and rabbit traps to Australia. Disturbing to me was the fact that it only closed in the 1980s!

We walked past rusting machinery, slowly being overgrown by brambles and thistles, to reach the canal, where brightly painted barges were moored, barrels waiting for loading on the quayside. Heavy foundry machinery stood in workshops, and the smell of burning coal started to fill the air as the chain-making shop started to fire up its forge.

During the day, demonstrations take place in different locations and we watched much smaller chains being made in the Back Yard Chain Shop, learning that men in this trade worked half the hours of women but were paid four times as much!

Cobbled streets contain more than 50 shops from the 1930s to the 1960s. In Old Birmingham Road we found Gripton's Radio Stores with shelves of old radios, and period music playing in the background.

Hartell's Motorcycles displayed motorbikes of the 1950s and Hobbs & Sons Fish and Chip Shop was doing a roaring trade. A queue had

TOP LEFT
Elephant and Castle in the museum

ABOVE LEFT
A street in the museum

TOP RIGHT
Midland bus in the museum

BELOW RIGHT
A cormorant at Rutland Water Nature Reserve

BIRD WATCHING

There will be many with an interest in wildlife, particularly birds, that may not have heard of the Global BirdFair, which was one of the purposes of this trip. It's an annual three-day event, held in July on the showground in Oakham, very close to Rutland Water, and sponsored by MMM's sister magazine *Birdwatch* and the BirdGuides website.

With marquees full of stalls, there's something for most lovers of wildlife. In addition, there are well over a hundred lectures you can drop into.

It's useful for planning future tours overseas as well as a source of maps and pamphlets on wild places to visit in the British Isles, France, Spain and further afield.

We stayed for four nights on a hardstanding right alongside the fair, with access to fresh water and waste, toilets and showers, but no electricity. Surrounded by visitors with a shared interest, it was very pleasant.

Visit **birdguides.com** to get advice, check out the photo of the week and more

Rupert Gibson Photography/Shutterstock

THE BELL AT TRYSULL PURE BLACK COUNTRY

TOP LEFT
Smestow Brook near Trysull

TOP RIGHT
A cottage in Trysull

INSET
The Bell Inn, Trysull

formed down the street and nearby bench tables were full of visitors eating their paper-wrapped fish and chips.

Above the shops, flats were fitted out with the décor, wallpaper and furniture of the 1930s. In other streets we found a sweet shop full of candy-filled jars, a bakery selling Victoria sponge and lemon tart and, in Brook Street, back-to-back houses from the 1950s, originally built for colliers and iron workers.

The most recent addition to the museum is a street reflecting the 1960s with a newsagent selling period papers and larger-than-present-day Mars bars, a branch of the West Bromwich Building Society and Stanton's Music Shop, set in 1959, with sound booths at the rear. A 1960s medical centre and cast-iron houses from 1925 are new additions.

Perhaps the most colourful area of the museum is its 1930s Travelling Fun Fair with brilliantly painted merry-go-rounds powered by massive diesel generator units. It was good to see children enjoying them still today.

Authenticity is added by the public transport that circulates the site: a single-deck bus from the 1950s and a bright red split-cab double-decker, even a horse-drawn cart. In busier periods there are electric trams, too.

It's the detail that brings it all to life. The staff in period costume chatting on a street corner, cottage gardens full of vegetables and flowers, and the pig behind Jerushah Tilted Cottage adding some authentic animal smells! In the Old Toll House, nasturtium flowers sat on a windowsill in an enamel mug and, on the table, a teapot with bread sliced for afternoon tea.

As you will have gathered, we thoroughly enjoyed our day, me delving back to the 60s of my youth and Andy delving back a little further! It was just a little disturbing to see so much of the history of our lives in a museum! You need a whole day to take it all in, but if you need more time, your ticket allows unlimited returns during the next 12 months.

We stayed at Park Farm CL, just outside of Trysull and about 30 minutes' drive from the museum, and couldn't believe we'd found such a lovely rural location so close to the urban environment of Dudley. It's alongside a working arable farm. We had a pitch in a grassy orchard with water and waste facilities and electricity metered at a very fair rate.

The farmhouse, like many buildings in the area, is red brick.

Footpaths lead from the farm into beautiful countryside. Close by, Trysull village has many old and attractive properties, and The Bell Inn at Trysull, a very pleasant pub.

Lovers of wildlife will enjoy this CL. We watched yellowhammers, finches and families of tits, robins and wrens in the trees and hedge beside our pitch and there was even a sparrowhawk that landed in the hedge alongside us.

Still in a nostalgic frame of mind, we walked to The Bratch, just over two miles away on the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal, using footpaths and quiet country lanes. The Bratch is a staircase of three lochs with an octagonal toll house and whitewashed keeper's cottage alongside. It's very pretty.

i

- For information on the BirdFair **globalbirdfair.org**
- Black Country Museum **bclm.com**
- For a map of local footpaths **trysullandseisdon-pc.gov.uk**
- For cycle trails and local footpaths **gps-routes.co.uk**

»

Our arrival was well timed as several narrowboats were waiting to pass through, assisted by volunteer lock-keepers in their blue Canal Trust t-shirts. We chatted with the bargees who all had interesting stories to tell.

One was the proud owner of *Swallow*, registered in 1934 and for much of its history owned by WH Cowburn & Cowpar Ltd, carrying glass carboys of acids and solvents, and sacks of salt and lime between Manchester and Courtauld factories in Wolverhampton and Coventry. Then, from 1951, it had carried coal.

Just over 21m long and 2.14m wide, there was virtually no room to spare as she crept carefully into the lock. Considered a historic vessel, she was painted in her original livery and her owner proudly told me that he had all the bills of sale since 1934.

Two young boys jumped off *Unicorn* to tie ropes and help with the locks, telling me their grandad had commissioned the boat in the 1970s. Now their father was at the helm as they made their way towards Stratford-upon-Avon. We watched the boys helping the volunteer lock keepers as they progressed down the three locks.

A cycle path runs alongside the canal and a five-minute walk from Bratch Locks there is another opportunity for cyclists in the form of the South Staffordshire Railway Walk (and cycle route). Once a sideline of the Great Western Railway, it follows a route not dissimilar to the canal running for 11 miles between Aldersley Stadium in Wolverhampton and Pensnett to the south.

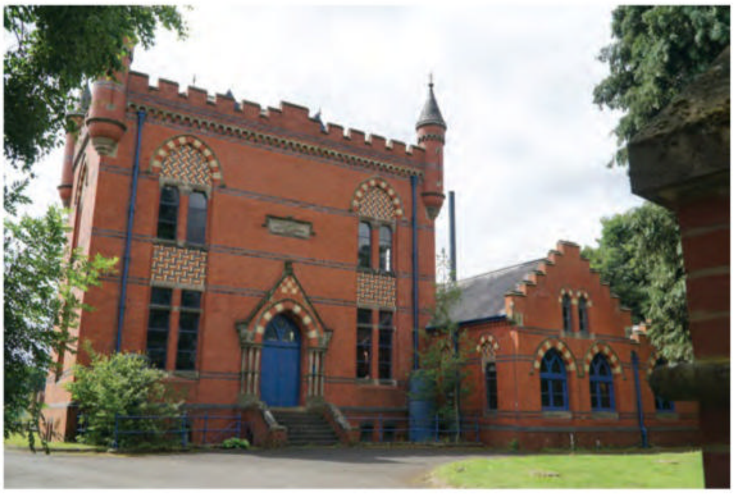
About halfway along the trail the old Wombourne station now houses The Platform café, selling breakfasts, lunches and home-made scones and cakes until 3pm each day. There's seating inside, outside under cover on the old platform and, during the summer, in the garden. It's about five minutes' walk from The Bratch and where we stopped for coffee and cake.

Halfway between the lock and The Platform we were surprised to find a very impressive, red-brick building, typical of municipal buildings of the Victorian era. With turrets, crenellations and coloured brickwork, this was Bilston Water Works, built in 1895.

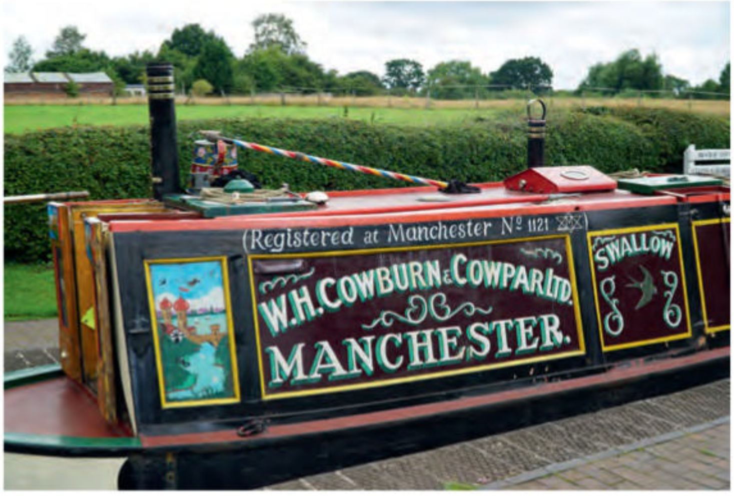
We could just see shining metal pumps inside. For pumping water up the canal, we thought…but no. Bilston Council bought its water from the council of Wolverhampton until a dispute over charges in 1895 led to Bilston finding its own water supply.

The sandstone here provided a perfect location for brick-lined wells to reach water 50m below ground. Two steam pumps pumped one million gallons every 20 hours to a reservoir nearly four miles away in Bilston. A tall chimney alongside was removed in 1960 when steam pumps were replaced with electric ones. It was a rather lovely old building to stumble across.

We spent just five nights near Trysull but packed in some lovely walks and plenty of Black Country history, leaving with many good memories… and some great *Peaky Blinders* caps!



TOP RIGHT
Bilston Water Works



MIDDLE RIGHT
Swallow's paint scheme as it was in the 1930s

BOTTOM LEFT
Swallow in the lock

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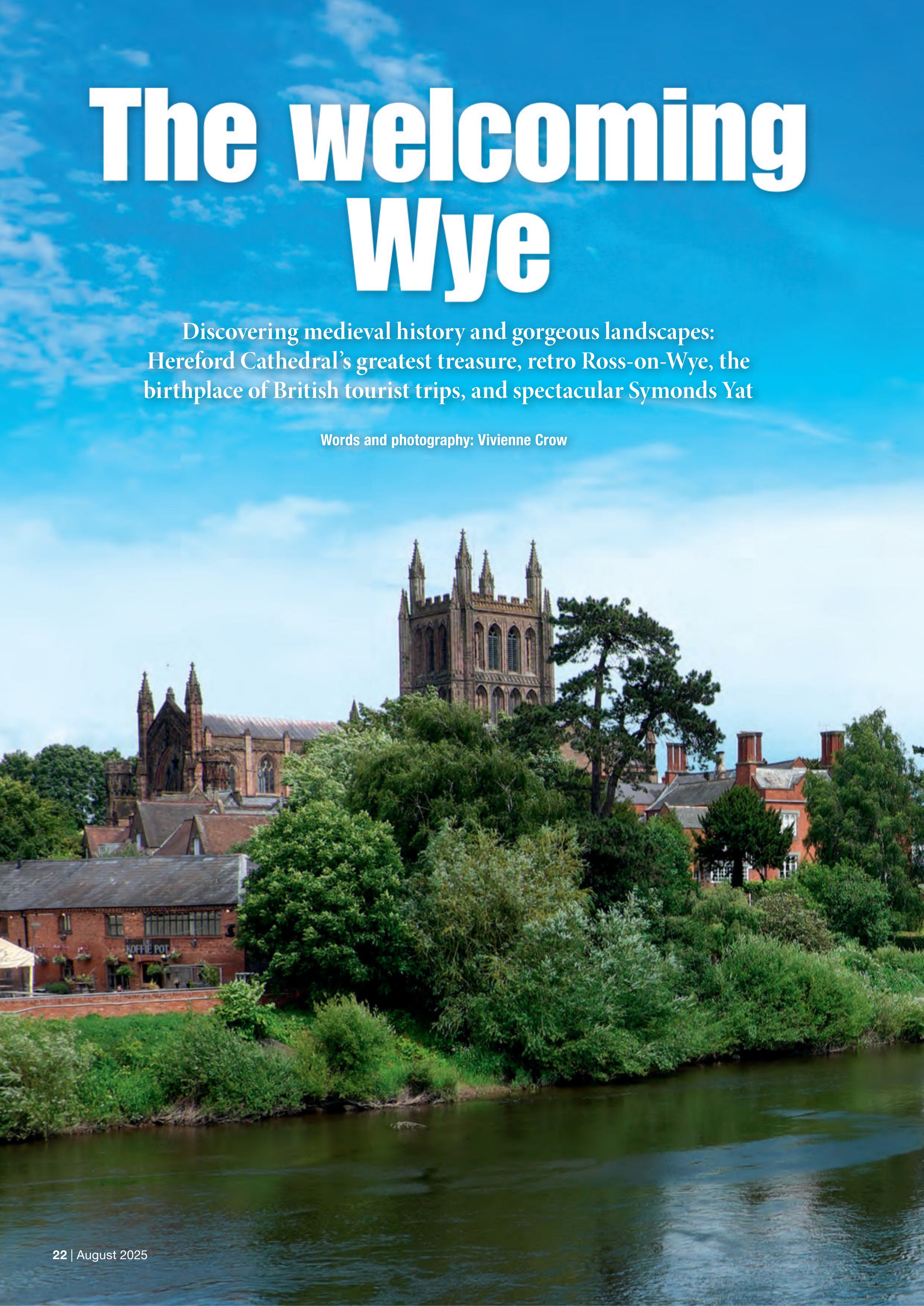
The welcoming Wye

Discovering medieval history and gorgeous landscapes: Hereford Cathedral's greatest treasure, retro Ross-on-Wye, the birthplace of British tourist trips, and spectacular Symonds Yat

Words and photography: Vivienne Crow



Wandering around Hereford on my first morning in the area, I soon come to realise this is a friendly city. I live in an equally friendly city; a place where, when I leave my house to go to the supermarket or walk the dog, I can almost guarantee that most of the strangers I greet with a cheery hello will reply with a bright salutation.

In most cities, it can be a bit hit and miss: I'll get a few greetings, a handful of smiles, lots of blank stares and the occasional questioning look that clearly says, 'Why is this nutter saying hello to me?' In Hereford, I'm getting a 90% hit rate – a high score on the friendly-ometer.

On the advice of the gentleman running the tiny Caravan and Motorhome Club Certificated Location where I'm staying, just a few miles outside of the city, I've parked at the St Martin's pay and display car park beside Hereford Leisure Pool and walked along the River Wye into the city centre. A plaque beside a small statue of a dog tells the story of how Dan the bulldog inspired one of Edward Elgar's *Enigma Variations.*

Apparently, the composer, who lived in Hereford from 1904 until 1911, was walking beside the Wye with his friend, George Sinclair, the cathedral organist, when George's dog fell into the river. Managing to clamber out of the water, Dan survived to bark the tale – and the canine caper sparked the creation of *Variation Number 11.*

When I arrive at the cathedral, its precincts are bustling – smartly dressed pupils of the cathedral school moving between lessons, tourists ambling along, local people off to work... As I enter the building, I'm immediately struck by the calm. Maybe it's the size of the place. Compared with many of England's great cathedrals, it looks relatively small from the outside. Stepping inside, though, the nave's high, vaulted ceiling gives a feeling of immense space. There is peace all around, the few early visitors awed into silence by the grand Norman architecture. »

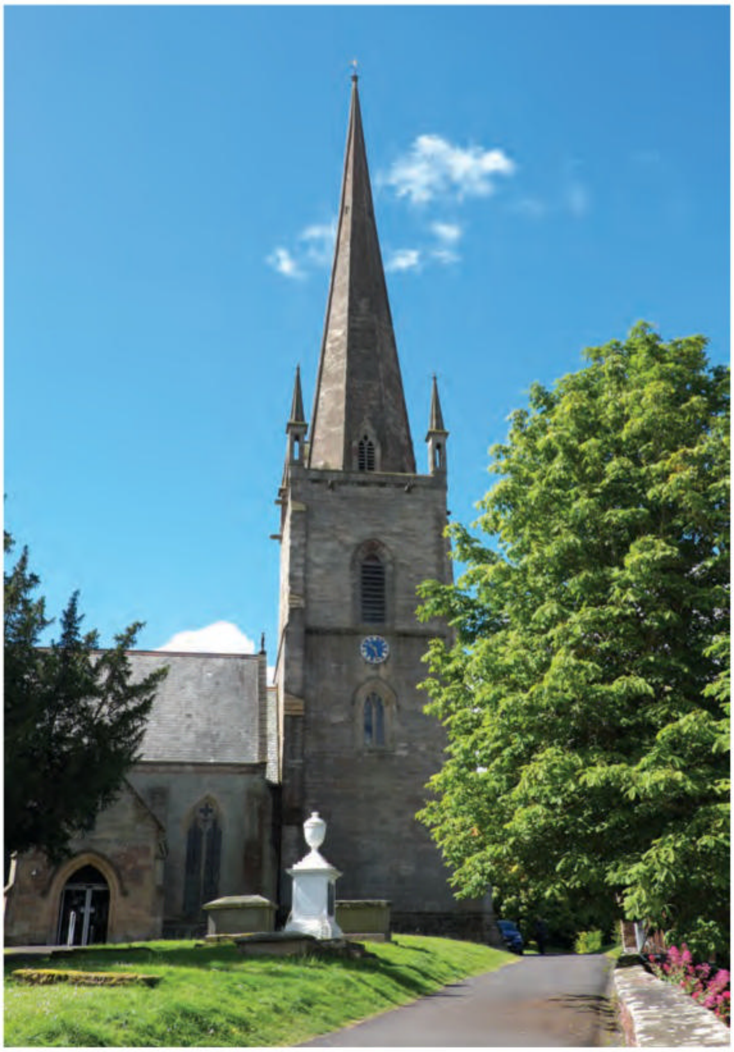
MAIN IMAGE
The River Wye at Hereford

i

- Hereford Cathedral and its permanent exhibitions
  W herefordcathedral.org
- Hereford Museum and Art Gallery
  W herefordshire.gov.uk/history-lives/hereford-museums-art-gallery
- Goodrich Castle
  W english-heritage.org.uk
- Heritage, wildlife and outdoor activities in the Wye Valley
  W wyevalley-nl.org.uk
- A guide to attractions and accommodation
  W visitherefordshire.co.uk

TOP TIPS

- Time your trip to Hereford's Black and White House to coincide with the weekly Civil War tour (Tuesdays, 11am), which explains the city's role in this turbulent period of English history
- Call in at Hereford Cathedral to see the Mappa Mundi, one of the world's unique medieval treasures
- The much-photographed view from Symonds Yat Rock offers incredible views of the River Wye and surrounding area



TOP TO BOTTOM St Mary's Church, Ross-on-Wye; Hereford Cathedral; The Black and White House in Hereford

My main reason for visiting is to see and learn more about the Mappa Mundi. These are words that trip off the tongue – like Magna Carta – but, to be honest, I know next to nothing about this 'chart of the world'.

Information panels in the permanent exhibition enlighten me, explaining that this is the largest surviving map of its kind. More medieval artwork than navigational aid, the massive sheet of vellum shows towns, animals and Biblical scenes as drawn by thirteenth century scholars.

The Mappa Mundi is undoubtedly Hereford Cathedral's greatest treasure, but the building also houses another superlative: the world's largest chained library to survive with all its security devices intact. Using a system of chains, rods and locks that enables books to be taken from a shelf and read nearby without being removed from the bookcase, chained libraries were common in Europe from the Middle Ages until the eighteenth century.

As I leave the cathedral, the heavens open, so I duck back in and wait out the hefty shower with coffee and cake in the cathedral café.

Next stop is the Black and White House, a striking, timber-framed building that was constructed in 1621. Having survived Civil War skirmishes and served as a saddler's shop, a fish shop and a bank, it is now a museum of seventeenth century Hereford life.

One of the loveliest things about this house is that there are no signs saying 'don't touch' or 'keep off the furniture'. Quite the opposite, in fact; visitors are encouraged to lie down on the beds, dress up in clothes of the period and generally behave like Jacobeans – but without torturing any witches. The young family visiting at the same time as me seem to be enjoying being liberated from the stuffy rules often associated with historical sites – there's lots of giggling going on.

A 30-minute drive from Hereford is Ross-on-Wye, one of the county's attractive market towns. It sits atop a sandstone bluff above the River Wye and proves to be a lovely spot for a gentle wander.

With its plethora of independent shops, the town centre makes a refreshing change from so many bland high streets that are lined with the same old chains. This seems to be the place to come if you're keen on antiques or retro items such as furniture and jewellery.

The diversity of architectural styles reflects the town's long history, including the thirteenth century St Mary's Church (the 62m spire of which can be seen for miles around), the seventeenth century Market House (sadly covered in scaffolding during my visit) and elegant Georgian homes.

In recent years, the town council has created a linear arboretum along a half mile stretch of riverbank, the trees containing an eclectic mix of both native and exotic species – 163 in total, including copper beech, the Japanese Keaki tree, crab apple, Chinese mahogany and cider gum, a type of eucalyptus. It's already a fascinating spot, but the trees are only young, so it can only get better.

I grab a light lunch from the riverside cabin outside the Hope & Anchor pub, and it isn't long before I'm chatting with a local man who's been litter-picking while I've been meandering about. "Have you seen our lovely bird sculptures?" he asks, kicking the friendly-ometer back into gear.

I show him the pictures I've already taken of the swans and trio of mallards created by the local metal sculptor, Walenty Pytel, in 1997. "Mr Pytel's got a fascinating story," he says.

Apparently, he was born in Nazi-occupied Poland in 1941. Because he was blonde and blue-eyed, he was seized from his mother so that he could be brought up by a childless Gestapo family. So the story goes, his mother then snatched him back and the pair fled across the Alps into Italy. Pytel finally came to England as a refugee in 1945 and has lived here ever since.

Ross-on-Wye is generally lauded as the birthplace of British tourism – where the first organised tours took place. These were in the form of boat trips down the River Wye from Ross-on-Wye in the north to Chepstow in the south.

It became fashionable for members of the leisured classes to 'do' the Wye Tour, dining at certain locations, visiting ruins and walking to viewpoints. The tours were particularly popular at the start of the nineteenth century, when the Napoleonic Wars put a temporary end to trendy trips to continental Europe.

Among the Herefordshire sites these early travellers visited was Goodrich Castle, still a popular tourist attraction today. These impressive ruins sit on a massive bend on the Wye, close to where the heavily wooded slopes of the Forest of Dean plunge to meet the meandering river.

Strategically located on the English-Welsh border, the castle started life in Norman times, was rebuilt in the late thirteenth century and was then besieged by Parliamentarians during the Civil War. The cannon used by the attackers, known as Roaring Meg, can still be seen in the castle's courtyard – the only surviving heavy artillery from the Civil War.

Just a few miles downstream of Goodrich is Symonds Yat, another stop on the Wye Tour. Here, perched on a headland projecting out into a massive loop on the Wye, is one of the most photographed viewpoints on this most photogenic of rivers. With the river on both sides, the views from Symonds Yat Rock reach far into the verdant Herefordshire countryside.

While I stand, slowly taking in this impressive outlook, swifts dart about, catching in their beaks some of the thousands of insects they'll eat during a single day. A high-pitched 'mewing' alerts me to the presence of a buzzard. I look up. There's no sign of it. One of my fellow sightseers sees me looking puzzled and points it out to me. "There!" she says, indicating with the walking stick she's holding. It's circling… but it's directly *below* us, putting into perspective the height of the viewpoint – roughly 150m above sea level. »

Ross-on-Wye is generally lauded as the birthplace of British tourism – where the first organised tours took place.

BELOW
River Wye from Wilton Bridge, near Ross-on-Wye

Don’t let that put you off, though; there’s very little uphill work on the path out to the clifftop. A good, surfaced trail leads from the large Forestry England pay and display car park and along a raised boardwalk to the viewpoint. It’s only a 10-minute walk and there’s even a small café on the way.

The sprawling forest to the south and west of Symonds Yat Rock is home to a complex network of tracks and trails. Donning my hiking boots, I set off to explore the area, soon leaving the viewpoint crowds behind. At one point, the path plummets to reach the banks of the River Wye near the wobbly Biblins suspension bridge. Apart from the hand-pulled cable ferries at Symonds Yat, this narrow, wire-mesh footbridge is the only crossing point between Goodrich and Monmouth.

The path heading back upstream beside the Wye follows the route of the old Ross and Monmouth Railway, a 13-mile line opened in 1873 intended to be part of a network of mostly freight routes carrying minerals and other goods between south Wales and England’s West Midlands. Today, the trains have been replaced by cyclists using Sustrans’ Route 423 from Cwmbran to Ross-on-Wye and by hikers on the 138-mile Wye Valley Walk.

Having had a taste of the Wye Valley over the previous couple of days, I realise, as I trace the route of the latter on my map, that this long-distance walk would be a great way to explore more of the area. It starts from Chepstow Castle, close to where the Wye enters the mighty River Severn, and heads upstream past Tintern Abbey, Symonds Yat, Ross-on-Wye, Hereford and Hay-on-Wye. It then continues through Hafren Forest before finishing on Plynlimon in the remote heart of the Cambrian Mountains, close to the river’s source. It looks enticing!

I encounter the Wye Valley Walk the next day, too, having decided to take another stroll beside the river. This time I take in a quieter, but still very pretty section near Brockhampton.

This village of scattered dwellings is home to All Saints Church, designed in 1902 by William Lethaby, a pioneer of the Arts and Crafts movement. The unusual-looking building has a thatched roof, but even more unusual is the fact that there is a replica of it – used as a wedding venue – in a hotel in Osaka, Japan. It’s slightly smaller than the Herefordshire original, but that’s only because it had to fit between the rooms of the two floors it occupies.

My riverside stroll takes in dense woodland that is alive with birdsong and embankments where hart’s-tongue fern and various wildflowers thrive. “Isn’t it beautiful here?” a voice calls from – I look around – the river. A kayaker is coming up behind me.

We exchange the usual weather-based pleasantries and she briefly tells me of her plans to spend two days paddling part of the river. As Herefordshire goes up yet another notch on the friendly-ometer, I ponder this modern take on the Wye Tour. Another reason to return one day… ■

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BELOW
River Wye from Symonds Yat Rock

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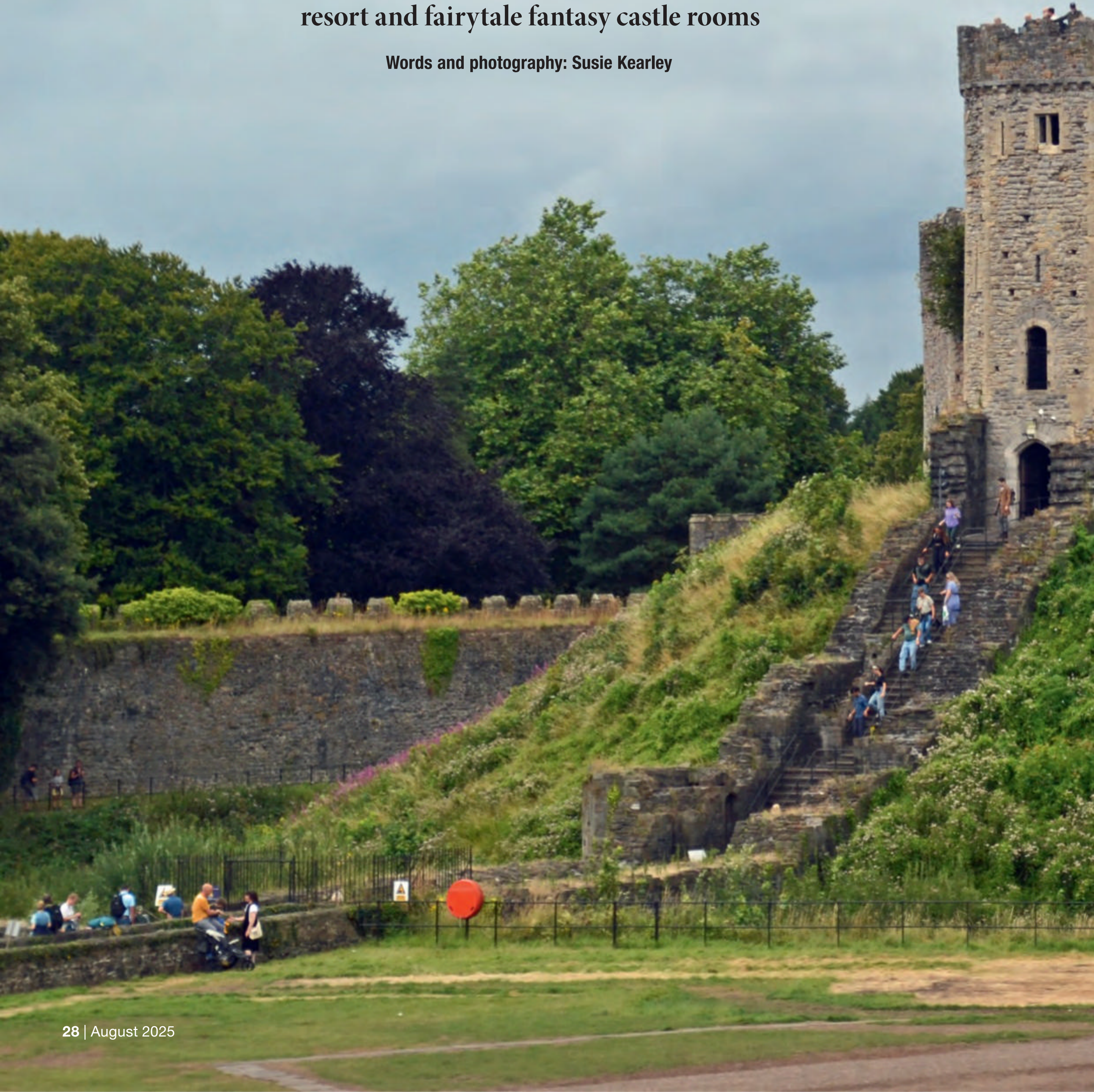
Captivating Cardiff

Glorious gardens, waterside restaurants, a museum of Welsh life, a reconstructed medieval village, a traditional resort and fairytale fantasy castle rooms

Words and photography: Susie Kearley



We pulled into Cardiff Caravan Park after a three-hour drive and set up the caravan in the sunshine. After a quick bite to eat, we set off to see the National Trust's Dyffryn Gardens, keen to make the most of the afternoon sun.

Dyffryn House and Gardens once belonged to a wealthy coal merchant, John Cory, who took over his father's coal mining business with his brother, and created the Port of Barry, to send coal from the Welsh valleys overseas. He needed to live nearby, at Dyffryn House, for the daily commute. The house was built between 1893 and 1894. The brothers owned collieries across South Wales, and were the largest private railway wagon owners in the UK.

John developed Dyffryn Gardens, planting exotic species from around the world and creating glorious ornamental garden rooms. .

The estate was purchased by Sir Cennydd Traherne who, two years later, leased it to Glamorgan County Council. The house was then used by the council as a police academy, dog training centre and conference facility. It was first opened to the public in 2013, following a multi-million-pound refurbishment, and today it's managed by the National Trust.

The gardens cover 55 acres, with water features, a rock garden and terraced areas, including the Pompeian Garden, which I recognised from seeing it in an episode of *Doctor Who*. Indeed, the gardens have been used as a film location for *Doctor Who* many times and at one time on a previous visit, we saw Matt Smith outside. He'd been filming an episode inside the house. ››

MAIN IMAGE
Cardiff Castle

TOP TIPS

- If you join the National Trust, you can park in National Trust car parks and as many National Trust properties as you like, such as Dyffryn Gardens near Cardiff, and Tredegar House in Newport, for no extra charge.
- The best place to park all day in Cardiff is National Museum Car Park which costs £6.50 for the day and beats the hourly rate on the roadsides and is considerably better value for money.

Later in the day, we went to Cardiff Bay, best loved for its associations with *Torchwood* – the *Doctor Who* spin-off with headquarters at Cardiff Bay. If you remember the show, you may enjoy seeing the memorial to Ianto near the boat trip kiosks. If you're not a fan, you'll still enjoy the wonderful collection of places to dine and the great atmosphere. There's a bar with Caribbean music in full swing outside, every evening.

The Millennium Centre at Cardiff Bay is well worth a visit because of its stunning architecture. You can buy refreshments or opt to see a show. The Welsh Assembly building is also open to the public during the day, and we returned for a guided tour later in the week. We walked around Cardiff Bay, and decided to have a meal at one of the many restaurants by the waterside.

TOP RIGHT
Dyffryn House and Gardens

CREU GWIR IN THESE STONES
FEL GWYDR HORIZONS
O FWRNAIS AWEN SING

RIGHT
Millennium Centre, Cardiff Bay

BELOW
St Fagan's Castle

The following day we went to St Fagans National Museum of History, a wonderful museum of Welsh life with numerous old buildings rescued from across Wales. One of the most impressive buildings is the Tudor church, recreated with remarkable wall paintings, depicting people entering the mouth of hell and the realms of heaven.

The Workmen's Institute was interesting, too. I expected it to be a bar and social club, but it was actually a place of study, reading and learning, although it had a pool table and an area for social gatherings, as well.

We explored the old public house where drinks are served, and looked around the Victorian shops. Inside, old brands of familiar products are on display – brands that you can't get any more. A handful of traditional items are available to buy and, in the Victorian bakery, bread and cakes are still baked. We took some fruit loaf back to the campsite for after dinner.

RT EXHIBITION
OPEN DAILY
NO FISHING

In 1987, the Rhyd-y-car ironworkers' cottages from Merthyr Tydfil were relocated to St Fagans. Today, they are furnished to reflect different periods in history. The first cottage reflects how people lived in 1805 and the last is furnished to depict the Welsh way of life in 1985. They are fascinating and the 1980s one brings back some memories of those days. The kitchen is just like my mother-in-law's!

Just across the lawn is a prefab, like those erected after the Second World War to solve the housing crisis at that time. At peak production, a new prefabricated house was made every 12 minutes. These homes solved the housing shortage, but were only ever intended to be temporary. They were popular among their owners, and some are still lived in today.

There's a lot of see at St Fagans, including the loom mill, water mill and the castle across the river. The castle is where Lord Windsor, father of the Earl of Plymouth, spent his summer holidays with his family between 1885 and 1910. It has wonderful gardens and overlooks the water. It was closing time by the time we left. The museum has enough exhibits to keep us entertained for days!

A meal at Nando's restaurant in Cardiff Bay rounded off the day nicely.

The next morning, we went to Penarth, a lovely seaside town with a Victorian pier and some lively bars. We walked along the clifftop path, taking in the coastal views.

Nearby is Cosmeston Lakes, a nature reserve with two lakes made from former quarries. We followed the footpaths around each of them, observing lots of water birds. There's a café here, and also a medieval village.

The medieval village was reconstructed on the shore in the 1970s, after remains of a real medieval village were found by archaeologists excavating the area. We explored the tithe barn, the pig keeper's cottage, the tavern, the bakery, and some other medieval dwellings and outhouses.

The village offers an interesting peek into medieval life; for example, no one except the baker was allowed to bake bread, under threat of punishment! I'm glad times have changed.

We finished the day at Barry Island, along the coast, where the Pleasure Park was in full swing with rides and loud music. Lots of tacky seaside shops adorned the seafront. This old Butlin's resort is a typical British seaside

TOP
Victorian pier at Penarth

INSET
Cosmeston Lakes

● Cardiff Bay
W cardiffbay.co.uk

● St Fagans
W museum.wales/stfagans

● Penarth
W visitthevale.com/towns/penarth

● Cosmeston Lakes and Medieval Village
W visitwales.com

● Barry Island
W barry.cymru

● Cardiff Museum
W museum.wales/cardiff

● Rhondda Valley Heritage Park
W rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Tourism/RhonddaHeritagePark/Home.aspx

● Cardiff Castle
W cardiffcastle.com

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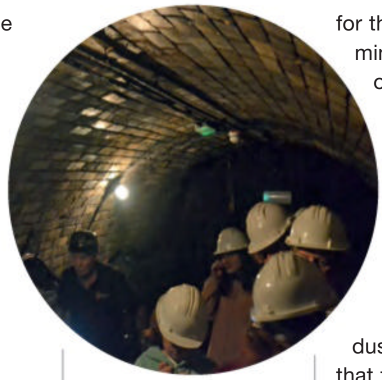

TOP LEFT
Rhondda Heritage Park

INSET
Rhondda Mine Tour

TOP RIGHT
Barry Island

BOTTOM RIGHT
Inside Cardiff Castle Manor House

destination, with candy floss, ice cream, amusements, beach shops, and headlands to explore in both directions. Butlin's closed in 1996 but the island remains synonymous with British traditional seaside holidays and fun.

As the sun set on the campsite, we planned some indoor attractions over the next few days, as the forecast was about to change. We spent a rainy day inside the National Museum Cardiff with its wonderful natural history displays, marine life exhibitions, collection of gemstones and fossils, and its art galleries. It's a popular location for families, and well worth a visit. You could easily spend a day there, and you can get all-day parking in the museum car park for £6.50.

On another grey day, we went to Rhondda Heritage Park, where we booked a guided tour through a mock mine. Our tour began at 12 noon. Our guide took us through the lives of coal miners, working in confined, dangerous spaces underground. I felt sorry for the animals involved in the mining operations. Canaries died of carbon monoxide poisoning as an early warning system to the miners of dangers that lay ahead. Pit ponies only lived to three years old and only got to see the light of day once a year, at Christmas.

The conditions were so dusty and horrible down there that the animals were breathing in coal dust and would likely develop respiratory problems. The men experienced this, too, but at least they got to go home every day and breathe fresh air away from the mines.

There were cats in the mines, too – feral cats who lived down there, catching the many rats that would appear in the mines. They weren't friendly felines – they would give you a swipe if you tried to pet them.

The tour took us through tunnels, with wagons and safety equipment erected to stop miners being injured by falling rocks. It ended with a simulator ride, which was fun!

We visited Cardiff Castle on another cloudy day and found plenty to keep us busy. A Norman castle was built on the remains of Roman foundations. Subsequent sieges and rebuildings mean that different parts of the castle date to different periods in history. The mansion and its state rooms were built by the third Marquess of Bute in the late 1800s. He employed the architect, William Burgess, to create Gothic revival fairytale fantasy rooms, which made us think of Harry Potter's Hogwarts, as we walked through the house. It was amazing!

There's also a museum outside in the castle grounds, looking at the history of British warfare and stories of Welsh servicemen who served in the British Army. You can explore the war tunnels where civilians hid during the Second World War, during bombing raids, and don't miss the display about the old Roman Wall.

As we prepared to leave the campsite at the end of our holiday, we were pleased to have packed plenty into our stay and felt we'd like to return to explore more of the city and coast on another occasion. ■

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80 years of fun!

Pentewan Sands Holiday Park is celebrating 80 years of family camping holidays on the Cornish coast. Here's a look back at the history of this popular holiday park

Location, location, location! Since 1945, campers have flocked to Pentewan Sands to enjoy the Cornish coast.

The five-star site is right on the beach – with some pitches just a few steps from the sand. These get snapped up quickly, though, so make sure you book early! These days, Pentewan has everything you could need on a campsite – two indoor pools, a whirlpool bath, tennis courts, watersports, a supermarket and plenty of places to eat. To mark its eightieth anniversary, a brand-new Asian fusion restaurant – Stingi's – opened, and there are competitions and giveaways all year for guests, ranging from family passes at local attractions to free holidays.

Long before the days of the five-star holiday park, the area on which Pentewan Sands sits was once farmland, close to a harbour used for transporting goods out of Cornwall.

The Pentewan Valley Trail (now popular with cyclists and hikers) runs along the bed of an old narrow-gauge railway that was once used for transporting clay and tin to the docks, where it was transported overseas. At its peak, Pentewan shipped a third of Cornwall's china clay from local quarries in St Austell, a thriving industry that the area is famous for.

In the 1920s and 30s, the Winnick, as it was originally called, was a working farm with cattle grazing in the winter months and campers in the summer months.

During the Second World War, the land was used to house American troops and their families when they came to visit. The surrounding areas were used for training and socialising during family time, which led to the idea of a holiday park.

When the war came to an end and the troops departed, several of the wooden cabins used to house them were converted into holiday lodges in an area now known as The Willows.

In 1945, Pentewan Sands Holiday Park opened. The park was the brainchild of Air Marshal Sir John Tremayne, his WW1 Air Force Observer, Sir Victor Sasson, and Submariner Cecil Malleson VC. In the aftermath of two world wars, they felt compelled to fill the shores of the south coast of Cornwall with laughter and joy again.

The park continued to grow and develop between the 1960s and 80s, with the addition of touring pitches, more holiday lodges, an outdoor swimming pool and entertainment.

In 1990, the first static caravan was introduced to Pentewan Sands. Prior to that, there were 39 chalets. The park now has 132 holiday homes and 417 touring pitches.

A terrible storm in 1991 destroyed the beach, resulting in a restoration project

info

PENTEWAN SANDS HOLIDAY PARK
Pentewan, St Austell,
Cornwall PL26 6BT
T 01726 843485
W pentewan.co.uk
E info@pentewan.co.uk

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with storm defences to prevent further sand movement. The continuation of this project protects the park and the adjacent village of Pentewan.

In 2006, the beach was used for marine training, which continued for a few years and still occurs now and again. A year later, The Lookout holiday home was built on top of an old lime kiln, providing elevated views across the park and the bay of Mevagissey.

In 2015, the popular burger chain, Hub Box, opened a branch on the beach at Pentewan Sands, and meanwhile the site's facilities were developed to provide two indoor swimming pools with flumes, new restaurants and takeaways, an amusement arcade and children's entertainment in peak holidays. In 2017, the park entered the Cornwall Tourism Awards and won three awards.

> Over the years, we've welcomed generations of families and loved ones to our park – as guests and as members of our team

Images: Pentewan Sands

pitchside VIEWS

Fiona Scott

A riverside site surrounded by walking routes

We were so lucky when we made the decision to spend a week on a site near the west Cambridgeshire market town of St Neots – it was the hottest week of 2025 at that point.

The large Camping and Caravanning Club site there is easily one of my favourites. Is it perfect, polished and posh? Absolutely not. Indeed it's a little rough around the edges. For this site it's all about location, location, location.

Situated directly on the bank of the River Great Ouse, it's ideal for anyone who loves gentle water sports (paddleboarding, kayaking, wild swimming) plus walking. I'd advise asking for a pitch overlooking the river. It's lovely to sit in your caravan and watch boats go by.

Throughout our stay we encountered geese, ducks, swans – and even the sound of a cuckoo echoed across the site.

There is one caveat – this site is prone to flooding, based on the fact that you are close to the river. This is plain to see, as every electricity bollard is built at a high height and the washroom facilities have doors with grooves for flood prevention boards. Flood alerts are updated regularly – so, if you fancy this site out of the summer season, do check those alerts first.

ABOVE
It's lovely to sit in your caravan and watch boats go by

RIGHT
Our pitch

We stayed here in late April, outside of school holidays, so the guests were largely retired people or those, like us, who can work from our caravan.

The facilities are clean and tidy. There are no play facilities on the site but, given that it's surrounded by fields, paths and and parks, that's not an issue. Nearby takeaway restaurants will deliver to the site and you get a 10% discount at the River Mill pub (Monday to Thursday) by showing your Camping and Caravanning Club membership card.

Getting to the site from Wiltshire was relatively easy; motorway until the last few miles. However, do be careful as you come within a mile of the site. Signage isn't great and, whatever route you take, you will go through a housing estate. The site entrance sits a few yards away from a public car park so, just as you arrive, you can experience a fair amount of traffic movement.

There are so many places you can visit around this site. There's a museum in the town, an aqua park nearby which is great for children (or big kids), you can hire a boat, visit a miniature railway or even go punting. For us, it was a lazy week by the river and we will definitely be going back.

TOP TIPS

- Walk alongside the River Great Ouse (there's a public walkway on the riverside) and turn left from the site. This takes you through marshland with walkways in abundance. You follow the path for a beautiful 20 mins and you will come to a weir and the River Mill pub. In sunny weather, this is very busy so you may need to book a table. The food is lovely and the pub is dog friendly.

- Walk alongside the River Great Ouse and turn right out of the site and you walk through more marshland, with a few raised walkways, and then into a huge town park with wide-open spaces and play areas. You also come to a large bridge which takes you into the town of St Neots. You can eat at the pub, The Bridge House, which overlooks the river. The pub welcomes dogs.

- Another walk is from the site's reception, taking the public footpath which runs at the back of the site. You will come out into a vast open area of walkways, and options for visiting pockets of woodland, as well as seeing a boating lake. This area is much used by local people going to and from work and children going to and from school. This was where our dog, Jess, took an unexpected bath when chasing some ducks – no ducks were harmed!

INFO

● For more information:
W **campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk/campsites/uk/cambridgeshire/st-neots/st-neots-camping-and-caravanning-club-site**
W **therivermillpub.co.uk**
W **bridgehousestneots.co.uk/index**
W **visit-stneots.co.uk**

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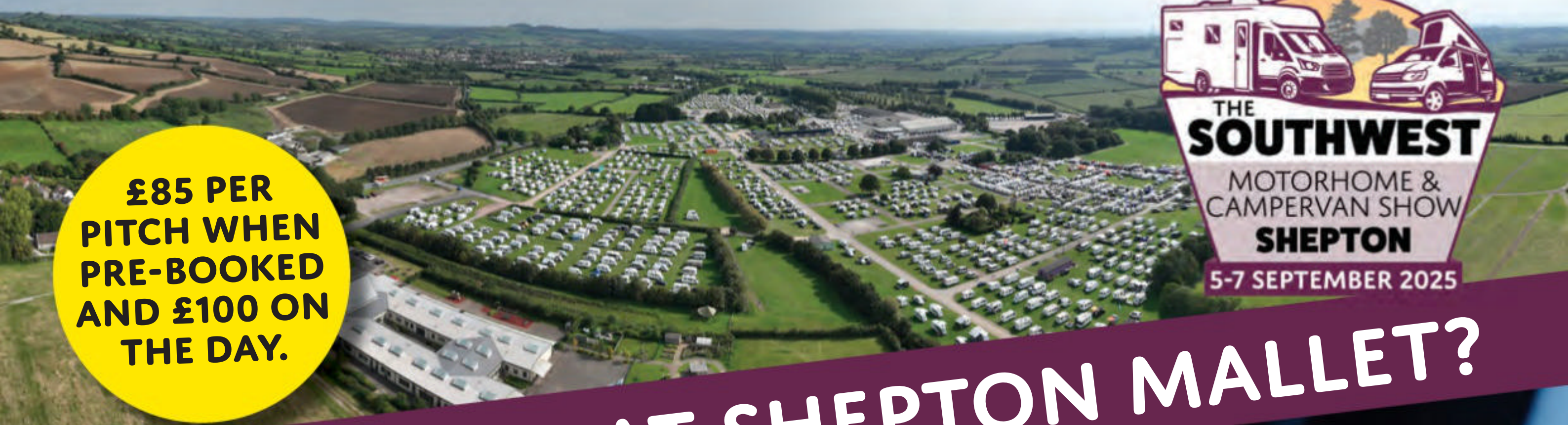

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The unit weighs 10kg. Its dimensions are 71cm by 65cm by 65cm.

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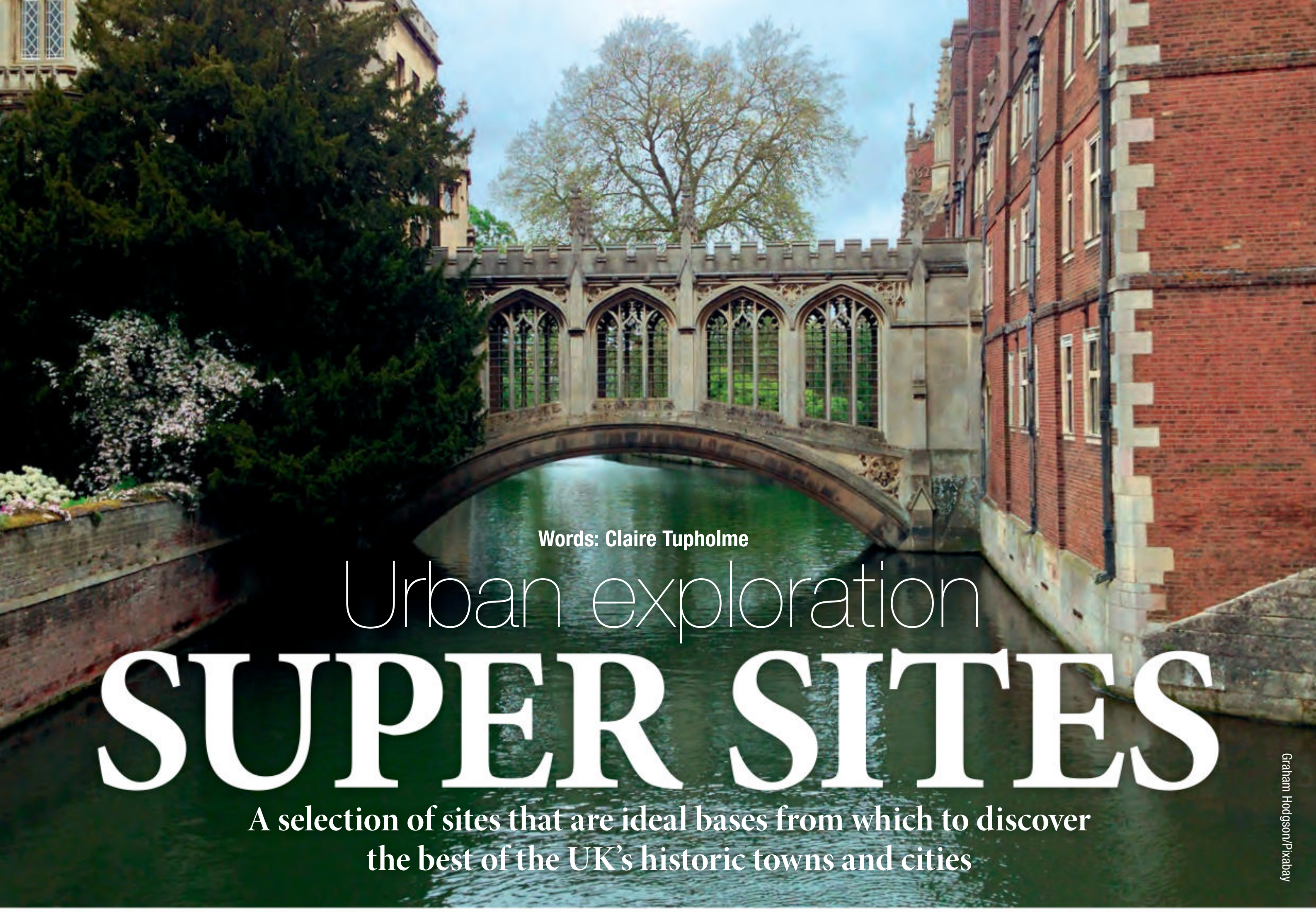
For more information, visit w cadacuk.com • The closing date for entries is 27 August, 2025.



Words: Claire Tupholme

Urban exploration SUPER SITES

A selection of sites that are ideal bases from which to discover the best of the UK's historic towns and cities

Graham Hodgson/Pixabay

HIGHFIELD FARM TOURING PARK, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Long Road, Comberton, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire CB23 7DG T 01223 262308 W highfieldfarmtouringpark.co.uk OPEN 28 March – 26 October

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Maria Okal/Pixabay

Highfield Farm Touring Park is set in countryside, just five miles west of the city of Cambridge.The best way to get to Cambridge is by bus. Trumpington Park and Ride is 10 minutes' drive away, and a short walk from the site there is a bus stop with services to the city. Cambridge is famed for its university buildings and architecture, as well as punting down the River Cam – perfect on a warm day. There is also a selection of museums, galleries and shops for rainy days.

Feeling a world away from the bustling city, Highfield Farm is surrounded by conifers, hedges and trees. Pitches are arranged around the perimeter to create a feeling of spaciousness. There are hardstanding or grass pitches with electric hook-ups. Facilities comprise toilet/shower buildings, a laundry room and a dog exercise area.

HALDON FOREST HOLIDAY PARK, DEVON

Clapham, Exeter, Devon EX6 7YG T 01392 832312 W devoncaravanpark.co.uk OPEN 28 March – 20 September

caz_che stock.adobe

Set among mature trees and landscaped ponds, this campsite offers electric hook-up grass pitches and three toilet and shower blocks, laundry facilities and a café/bar in high season. The perfect blend of being close to the city, yet in the countryside, Haldon Forest Holiday Park is just five miles from Exeter and under two miles from Haldon Forest. The forest offers walking and cycling routes through 3,500 acres of woodland and, when you fancy a day in the vibrant city of Exeter avoiding parking hassles, Matford Park and Ride is only a 10-minute drive away.

Historic Exeter offers plenty to see, including a cathedral that was built in 1060, ancient city walls and a medieval guildhall with an ornate exterior. You can also head to Quayside to browse the independent shops, walk and cycle by the waterside, or enjoy some alfresco dining. Should you get a rainy day there's also the Royal Albert Memo rial Museum, detailing the city's 2,000-year history.

»

LINCOLN FARM PARK, OXFORDSHIRE

PREMIER PARK 2025 The finest UK campsites, independently assessed

High Street, Standlake, Oxfordshire
OX29 7RH T 01865 300239
W lincolnfarmpark.co.uk
OPEN 7 February – 2 November

The university buildings of Oxford offer a feast for the eyes with their stunning architecture. One of the most recognisable is the Radcliffe Camera, a circular building in the heart of Oxford. The Bodleian Library is one of the oldest libraries in Europe and is the second-largest in Britain, after the British Library. While in Oxford you can also visit the cathedral, castle and many museums, and take a boat trip down the river.

Lincoln Farm Park is 10 miles from Oxford. If you want to avoid taking your car into the city, there is a bus stop at the campsite entrance.

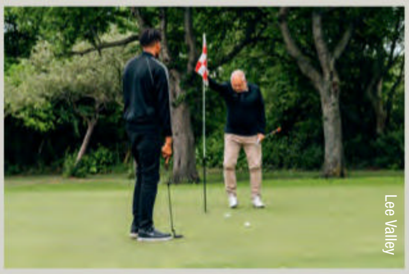
There are standard electric hook-up pitches and fully serviced pitches. The site has a leisure centre which includes two indoor pools. Facilities include toilets and showers, a family bathroom, facilities for the disabled and a shop. There are pubs within walking distance and you can walk to the River Thames.

Abdulhakeem Samae/Pixabay

Alfonso Cerezo/Pixabay

Adam Gorka/Pixabay

Lee Valley


Lee Valley

LEE VALLEY CAMPING & CARAVAN PARK, LONDON

Meridian Way, Edmonton, London N9 0AR
T 03000 030625 W visitleevalley.org.uk
OPEN All year

London has something for everyone, come rain or shine. If you want to experience the bright lights of London via a quick trip on public transport, but be far enough out of the city to escape the hustle and bustle at the end of a busy day exploring, then the Lee Valley campsite at Edmonton is the perfect choice, and it’s open all year.

Located in north London, next to a reservoir and golf course, Lee Valley Camping and Caravan Park has grass and hardstanding pitches with electric hook-ups. And there’s no need to use the car. There’s a bus stop outside the site and a train station a short walk away.

The site has toilets and showers, a shop, a laundry room, an 18-hole golf course (clubs are available to hire from reception), an Odeon cinema and Lee Valley Athletics Centre. Bikes and fire pits can be hired from reception. Pubs, restaurants and shops are close to the site.

RHYD Y GALEN CARAVAN & CAMPING PARK, GWYNEDD

PREMIER PARK 2025 The finest UK campsites, independently assessed

Bethel, Caernarfon, Gwynedd,
Wales LL55 1DX T 01248 671114
W wales-camping.co.uk
OPEN 1 March – 31 October

Set close to the northwest coast of Wales, a short drive from the Isle of Anglesey, Rhyd Y Galen is just over a mile from the Wales Coast Path and seven miles from the city of Bangor. This small city is home to a former bishop's palace that is now a museum and gallery, and has a Grade II listed pier, the second-longest in Wales.

The spectacular Snowdonia scenery surrounds the site.

There are grass and hardstanding pitches with electric hook-up, plus serviced pitches with water and drainage. Facilities include toilets and showers, accessible facilities, and a dog walking area.

The Menai Bridge to Anglesey is only 10 minutes' drive from the site; at the time it was completed it was the largest suspension bridge in the world.

Just down the road is the National Watersports Centre, where visitors can learn to sail, canoe or windsurf or use the swimming pool. Or you can try scuba diving in the scubaScape Diving Centre at Vivian.

Postywood/Adobestock

Rhyd Y Galen

David Lloyd/Pixabay

Caerfai Bay

Caerfai Bay

CAERFAI BAY CARAVAN & TENT PARK, PEMBROKESHIRE

St Davids, Haverfordwest,
Pembrokeshire SA62 6QT
T 01437 720274 W caerfaibay.co.uk
OPEN 28 March – 2 November

As the smallest city in the UK, you'd be forgiven for thinking there's not much at St Davids to keep you occupied. However, there's a stunning cathedral, a bishop's palace, craft and gift shops and a choice of cafés. Plus, you can book a boat trip to explore the range of birdlife on Ramsey Island.

Caerfai Bay Caravan & Tent Park is less than a mile from St Davids, so you can easily stroll from the site to explore the city. For those who would like to walk further, the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path passes the site's entrance. You can access the beach from the site via a concrete path and steps.

Caravans can choose from grass or hardstanding pitches with electric hook-up. There are toilets and showers, family rooms, facilities for the disabled and a laundry room. Dogs are welcome on the site and are allowed on Caerfai Beach all year round.

»

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

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Comberton, Cambridge CB23 7DG • 01223 262308
www.highfieldfarmtouringpark.co.uk
enquiries@highfieldfarmtouringpark.co.uk

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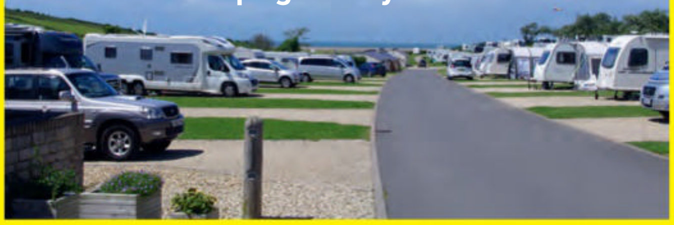

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T: 01248 671114 W: wales-camping.co.uk E: info@wales-camping.co.uk

PREMIER PARK 2025

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WALES

Ffordd Caerfai, St Davids. SA62 6QT
01437 720274
caerfaibay.co.uk info@caerfaibay.co.uk

CAERFAI BAY

Caravan & Tent Park

Image: @garethrhys

Offering panoramic sea views, and excellent facilities, the park is less than a mile from St Davids, and some 300 yards from the sandy Caerfai beach and Pembrokeshire Coastal Path. Enjoy exploring Britain's smallest City with its magnificent Cathedral, together with cafes,restaurants, pubs and shops. Caerfai Bay is perfect for walkers, families, rock climbers, water sports enthusiasts, stargazers and wildlife lovers. Pitches for touring caravans, motorhomes, campervans and tents. Tent fields have dog-friendly and non-dog areas. Facilities include an underfloor heated amenity block with toilets, showers and a campers' kitchen.

WALES

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DRUMMOHR CAMPING & GLAMPING SITE, EAST LOTHIAN

Levenhall, Musselburgh, Edinburgh EH21 8JS
T 0131 665 6867 W drummohr.co.uk
OPEN All year

You can explore the delights of Scotland's hilly capital, then retreat back to your peaceful pitch in the grounds of an old monastery at Drummohr. The spacious, hardstanding pitches all have electric hook-ups and dogs are welcome. Drummohr is a 15-minute walk from the coast, and there are two golf courses within easy reach.

If you'd rather leave your car alongside your caravan and avoid city parking, a bus stop, train station and park and ride service are all less than a mile away.

Edinburgh has more to see than you can fit in in one day. Here's a snapshot: like much of the old town, Edinburgh castle is over 900 years old. The Royal Mile is a vibrant street full of shops, pubs and restaurants, concluding at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. At the National Museum of Scotland, you can enjoy an in-depth history of the country, including history, science, and technology.

STRAWBERRY HILL FARM CAMPING & CARAVAN PARK, DURHAM

Running Waters, Old Cassop,
Durham, County Durham DH6 4QA
T 0191 372 3457
W strawberry-hill-farm.co.uk
OPEN 1 March – 3 January

Noted as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1986, Durham Castle and Cathedral stand proud over the city, in their scenic peninsula location, edged by the River Wear. In the compact city of Durham you can explore winding cobbled streets filled with cafés, galleries, museums and shops, and walk along the riverside or take a river cruise.

Getting to the city from Strawberry Hill Farm is easy if you want to leave your car at the site. Just a 20-minute bus journey takes you to the city; a bus stop is a five-minute walk from the site, and there are a choice of park and ride locations to access the city.

The campsite has grass and hardstanding pitches with 16A hook-ups. There are toilets and showers, a bathroom for guests with disabilities, and a laundry room. Other amenities include a shop, a play area and a dog walking area – plus a tea room serving breakfasts, afternoon tea and home-made cakes.

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Emphyrio/Pixabay

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OAKWOOD FARM TOURING PARK, CHESHIRE

Oakwood Farm, Parkgate Road, Chester, Cheshire CH1 6EY
T 01244 880828 W oakwoodfarmchester.co.uk OPEN All year

Oakwood Farm Touring Park is set on the edge of the Wirral Peninsula, three miles from Chester. The site has hardstanding pitches with electric hook-ups and water, and there is a toilet and shower block, a laundry room, plus a café. Oakwood Farm is conveniently located on a bus route to Chester and is adjacent to a cycle route. If you also fancy visiting another city, Liverpool is just over an hour on the train from Chester.

Chester has a 1,000-year-old cathedral, the oldest, longest and most complete city wall in Britain, the oldest racecourse and the largest Roman amphitheatre in Britain. Chester Market, which was redeveloped and reopened in late 2022, offers a selection of traders selling clothes, gifts, produce and plants, and there is also a choice of global food stalls, with over 400 seats on which to sit and enjoy some tasty treats.

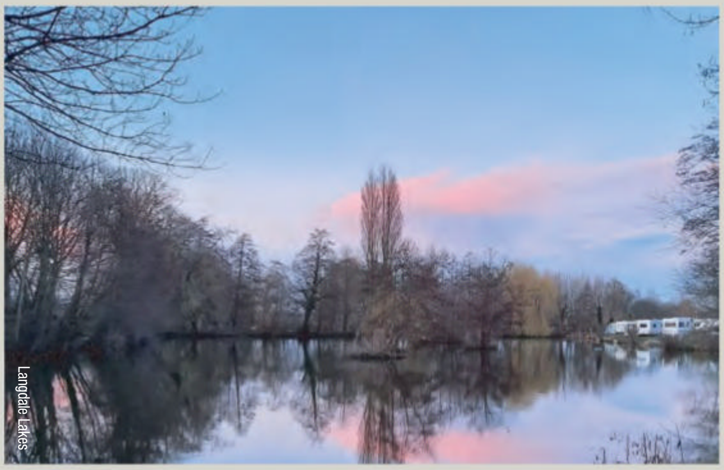
Alan Wright/Pixabay

LANGDALE LAKES, LINCOLNSHIRE

Station Road, Langworth, Lincoln, Lincolnshire LN3 5BB T 01522 752414 W langdalelakes.co.uk OPEN 1 March to 30 November

Conveniently located just off the A158, six miles from Lincoln, Langdale Lakes is an adults-only, tranquil oasis, with two fishing lakes. The touring area has pitches with 16A hook-ups, and some pitches are right next to the water. All pitches are only a few steps from the lakes. Site facilities include toilets, showers and a dishwashing area. There is a bus stop near the site entrance. A garden centre and coffee shop are a mile and a half away, with a footpath adjacent to the main road the whole way.

The centre of historic Lincoln bustles with shops, museums, galleries, a castle and of course a cathedral. If you visit in the warmth of summer you can enjoy drinks al fresco while marvelling at the stunning architecture. Brayford Pool is a waterfront area where you can enjoy walks alongside the water and choose from a selection of restaurants.


Langdale Lakes

NigelReeve/Pixabay

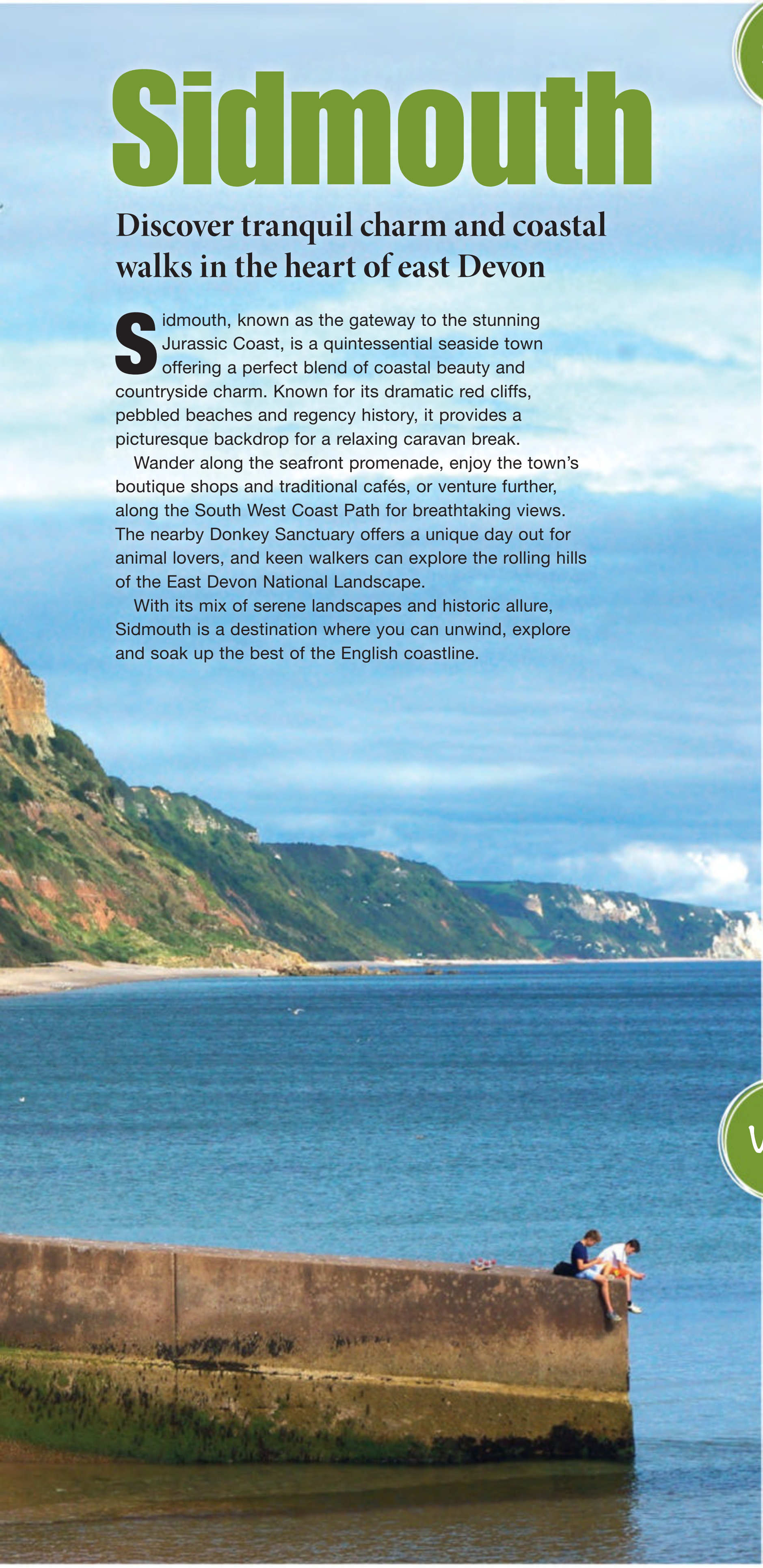
Sidmouth

Discover tranquil charm and coastal walks in the heart of east Devon

Sidmouth, known as the gateway to the stunning Jurassic Coast, is a quintessential seaside town offering a perfect blend of coastal beauty and countryside charm. Known for its dramatic red cliffs, pebbled beaches and regency history, it provides a picturesque backdrop for a relaxing caravan break.

Wander along the seafront promenade, enjoy the town's boutique shops and traditional cafés, or venture further, along the South West Coast Path for breathtaking views. The nearby Donkey Sanctuary offers a unique day out for animal lovers, and keen walkers can explore the rolling hills of the East Devon National Landscape.

With its mix of serene landscapes and historic allure, Sidmouth is a destination where you can unwind, explore and soak up the best of the English coastline.



Stay

Oakdown

▲ Oakdown Touring & Holiday Caravan Park

PREMIER PARKS 2025 The finest UK campsites, independently assessed

Set in the peaceful Devon countryside just outside Sidmouth, Oakdown is a multi-award-winning site renowned for its beautifully landscaped grounds and top-class facilities. This charming destination offers a stunning location combined with generously sized, tree-lined pitches. It has hardstanding pitches, a dog wash, a café, a shop and a nine-hole pitch and putt course – all within easy reach of the Jurassic Coast.

W oakdown.co.uk

Explore

COAST PATH BUDLEIGH SALTERTON 2¼m
COAST PATH SANDY BAY ¼m EXMOUTH 1¾m

▲ South West Coast Path

The South West Coast Path is England's longest marked walking trail. Stretching 630 miles, it begins in Somerset and traces the coastline through Devon and Cornwall before concluding in Dorset. You can access this path just two miles from the site. Head east to enjoy views towards Beer and Branscombe, or west for clifftop walks to Sidmouth and Budleigh Salterton.

W southwestcoastpath.org.uk

Visit

The Donkey Sanctuary

▲ The Donkey Sanctuary

A short walk from the campsite, this much-loved sanctuary cares for hundreds of rescued donkeys. Entry is free and there are scenic walking trails, a visitor centre and a café on the site.

With numerous activities and trails suitable for any weather, there's always something to discover at the Donkey Sanctuary. Plus, dogs on leads are welcomed!

W thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk ■

Bailey ▮ W baileyofbristol.co.uk ▮ £32,499

Bailey

Pegasus Grande GT75 Messina

Three wardrobes, an under-bed storage area that spans the whole width of the caravan, and lounge seating long enough to make single beds

Words: Val Chapman ▮ Photography: Richard Chapman

Watch the YouTube video by visiting: bit.ly/caravan1207

When the Messina first appeared, it grabbed attention with a unique lounge layout. Bailey called it a G-shape. It was a cross between an L-shape and parallel seating – and involved a two-person dining area as part of the lounge, on the nearside. We loved it. But then we are always attracted to the new and the different. It seems, though, that others were not so lured by this layout – and Bailey changed it to a conventional parallel lounge in 2024.

The initial unique layout, though, served to focus attention on the Messina – and its Bologna range-sibling that shared the inventive lounge layout – leading to these models now being among Bailey's top sellers. Both price and weight of these models is modest; contributing factors, undoubtedly, to their popularity.

Although the unique G-shape attention-grabber lounge has gone, both of these twin-axle four-berths still have a unique feature; one that is far less obvious than seating configuration. It's the locker system that stretches the whole width of the caravan. In the Messina, it's at the rear, under the bed. It has access hatches at both the near and offside. That means you can store lengthy items (such as the boring necessity of a long-handled caravan wash brush). And the width of the hatches enables you to easily put in an outdoor table and folding chairs, as well as lots of other stuff. You can, of course, access the vast under-bed storage area from within the caravan, by lifting the bed base – but the twin exterior hatches make taking stuff in and out so much easier.

The Messina's excellent storage story continues – and takes it, in our opinion, well above the aforementioned Bologna. For the Messina has three wardrobes. That's two in the bedroom, plus one alongside the shower; that's on the nearside forward of the

PEGASUS
PEGASUS GRANDE
MESSINA

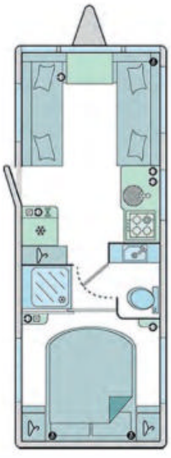
RIGHT
Two doors separate the bedroom from the kitchen

bedroom (with the toilet/washbasin compartment opposite). This extra wardrobe puts the Messina in a class of its own. However you want to organise your clothes, it offers brilliant versatility; it can be the place for everyone's coats, perhaps, because it's nearest to the door – or the clothes that you wear most often, so that you can step out of the shower and get dressed without going into the bedroom.

The third wardrobe significantly enhances the Messina's credentials as a four-berth; those sleeping in the lounge can put

fact file

- **Berths** 4
- **Length**
  Body 6.33m
  Overall 7.86m
- **Width** 2.45m
- **Headroom** 1.96m
- **Heating system**
  Truma
- **Weight**
  MIRO 1,548kg
  MTPLM 1,708kg



»

their clothes in this wardrobe so that they don't have to invade the bedroom. It has three shelves below the hanging space; a good space for t-shirts and shoes, too. We love it!

We also love the bedroom; secluded at the rear, separated from the shower room by a sliding door, and with two dressing tables. One has a mirror, and both have cabinets and mains sockets.

TOP LEFT The settees are long enough to be used as single beds

ABOVE LEFT The toilet/washbasin compartment measures 84cm wide, 1.32m deep

ABOVE RIGHT Plenty of upper and lower cabinet space

BELOW LEFT The all-important third wardrobe, between the fridge and the shower

TOP RIGHT (OPPOSITE PAGE) Rear bedroom luxury

MIDDLE LEFT (OPPOSITE PAGE) A vast space under the bed

BOTTOM LEFT (OPPOSITE PAGE) The under-bed space has hatches at both sides

Thanks to...

Leisure Sales, Sandbach, Cheshire

Bedside cabinets win our praise for their capaciousness; 38cm deep and 38cm wide, below the wardrobes. And these units incorporate surfaces measuring 38cm by 41cm; that's far larger than most bedside ledges. Two lockers above the bed are generous in size, each is 30cm deep, 62cm wide and 43cm tall, with a 30cm-wide shelf between the two.

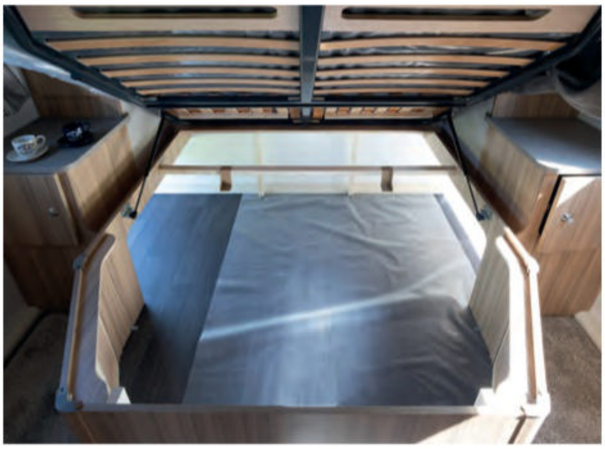
The plushly upholstered and padded bedhead adds to the general luxury appeal of the Messina; although Pegasus isn't at the top of the Bailey spec ladder, it does enjoy a good measure of cosiness throughout. And space, everywhere, is a keynote of this model's appeal. When you close the sliding door that divides the bedroom from the shower area, and the hinged door that segments the wash area from the kitchen, the ablutions zone is nicely spacious. The toilet/washbasin compartment, alone, measures 84cm wide and 1.32m deep. That's plenty of space for dressing. The Belfast-style washbasin sits on a good-sized unit, with a double-doored cabinet and surface space on each side of the basin. There's also a shelf between here and the toilet (created by the presence of the wheelarch) plus a shelf running under the mirror. Plenty of space to get organised.

So, too, in the kitchen, with two lower cabinets that are 34cm and 35cm wide, plus a cutlery drawer that gives you 30cm of interior width. Below the oven and also below the Thetford 137-litre fridge (with 15-litre freezer compartment) are small lockers, and the cabinet beside the microwave is capacious, at 70cm wide, and divided into three shelf spaces.

With the hob top down, the surface space is 1.24m long; that's fine, but cooking enthusiasts may want more space – and it can be had. Bailey's Prima Leisure online shop sells a worktop extension, at £109.99; it gives you 41cm by 37cm of extra space. We know from experience that this is a valuable asset to kitchen organisation; we bought one for our own 2024 Bologna.

Two mains sockets are close to the kitchen surface; perfect if you want to use a coffee machine (as

The under-bed storage area that stretches the width of the caravan is an asset that, alone, will endear this model to many



we do) and equally well placed for a toaster or electric kettle.

More connectivity is alongside the door, forward of the fridge. This time it's for your television, plus there is a wireless charging pad complete with USB port – and this media station is where the Messina's portable Sonos speaker lives, in a recess, when it's being charged. There's a cabinet beneath; just large enough for shoes as you step inside from the doorway. And little things count; the Messina (like all Pegasus models) has a dustpan and brush concealed within the bin that is mounted to the door.

So to the Messina's (arguably) most important 'room'– the lounge (after all, it's where you spend most of your time when you're not enjoying the great outdoors). The settees, at 1.91m long, offer enough length to be used as single beds, making this model a credible four-berth family caravan. The eight-foot width creates a lovely spacious feel. The bolster-style armrests ensure cosy comfort, and each is edged in suede-effect fabric.

For mealtimes for two, the pull-out table provides 58cm by 39cm of space, and the windowsill gives you another 72cm by 51cm of space. When four are dining, you need to delve under the bed to get out the free-standing table. Tables under beds are never the most convenient, but be reassured that getting this one out and putting it back is less arduous than many, even though it's larger than most, at 92cm by 80cm, taking advantage of the full-fat 2.45m width of the Messina.

There's a lot to like about the Messina – and, with an MTPLM that is only a smidgeon over 1,700kg, it is a good match for a wide range of towcars.

verdict At £32,499 the Messina is well priced to fend off most of its competition. Its third wardrobe gives it a head start, as does the spacious aspect of its shower and washbasin area. And the brilliantly designed under-bed storage area stretches the entire width of the caravan, with two exterior hatches, is an asset that, alone, will endear this model to many.

Coachman ▮ W coachman.co.uk ▮ £31,555

Coachman
Acadia 575

Good on weight, good on price – with a charming ambience, and lots of interesting style points

Words: Val Chapman ▮ Photography: Richard Chapman

Watch the YouTube video by visiting: bit.ly/caravan0307

The single-axle 575's transverse island bed, rear shower room layout is among the most popular on the market.

Coachman has three – there's one in the VIP range, and one in the Laser range, too. Swift has four – the Sprite Major 4 SB and the Grande (eight-foot wide) version of it; the Challenger 580 and the Grande version of that, too. Bailey has four – the Alicanto Grande Deluxe Sintra, the Unicorn Deluxe Vigo, the Pegasus Grande GT75 Brindisi and the Phoenix GT75 644. And Adria has one, the Adora Isonzo, albeit a longer and heavier model than the others, at 8.27m, and 2,000kg, but nonetheless on a single axle.

Of these, all three of the Coachmans, the Swift Challenger 580, the Bailey Alicanto Sintra and the Adria Adora Isonzo, have Alde heating – and so are comparable with each other in terms of heating system preference. They're also close on price, the Challenger 580 being £33,045, the Unicorn Vigo at £33,399 and the Adora Isonzo at £34,275. The Acadia's £31,555 price tag, though, puts it ahead of its competition. Buyers don't simply buy on price, though that is of course a consideration.

So, what do you get for your money? And what do you get in terms of character and ambience? Coachman supplied us with an Acadia 575; ours for evaluation at the Camping and Caravanning Club's Delamere site in Cheshire.

Acadias gained a raft of new aesthetic features for 2025. In our opinion, all of them contribute to the strong character of this caravan. Among the new features are downlighting in the form of four tiny bright spotlights above the (full width) sunroof and a delightfully plain, flat shape with no handles, and concealed catches, for the top locker doors that have a pattern composed of parallel lines arranged in approximate diamond sectors. There's also the introduction of a kitchen worktop extension (hugely important in terms of practicality). And there's an interesting wall-finish design, composed of interconnecting diamond shapes. It's used for the kitchen splashback, a full-height panel on the window wall of the bedroom, and most of the shower room. And it's really quite stunning.

Among other notable features is a Bluetooth speaker system. And the sink is what is termed 'underslung', meaning that it's rimless and sits

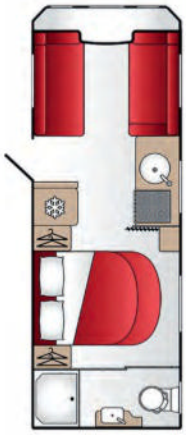
COACHMAN
ACADIA 575

ABOVE The caravan looks longer than its 5.76m body length

RIGHT The bold, triangular pattern of two of the cushions is eye-catching

fact file

- **Berths** 4
- **Length**
  Body 5.76m
  Overall 7.39m
- **Width** 2.26m
- **Headroom** 1.95m
- **Heating system** Alde
- **Weight**
  MIRO 1,382kg
  MTPLM 1,537kg



under the surrounding surface. That means the sink cover fits flush with the surface, so that the whole of the kitchen top is usable as a prep area.

We think the 575 has personality in spades and our first impression, after just a few minutes settling down to evaluate it, is that it stands its ground admirably among its same-layout, single-axle cousins.

Time for further exploration of the details…

The kitchen surface is 59cm deep and 75cm long, and the extension adds 30cm to that length. So, with the hob top down

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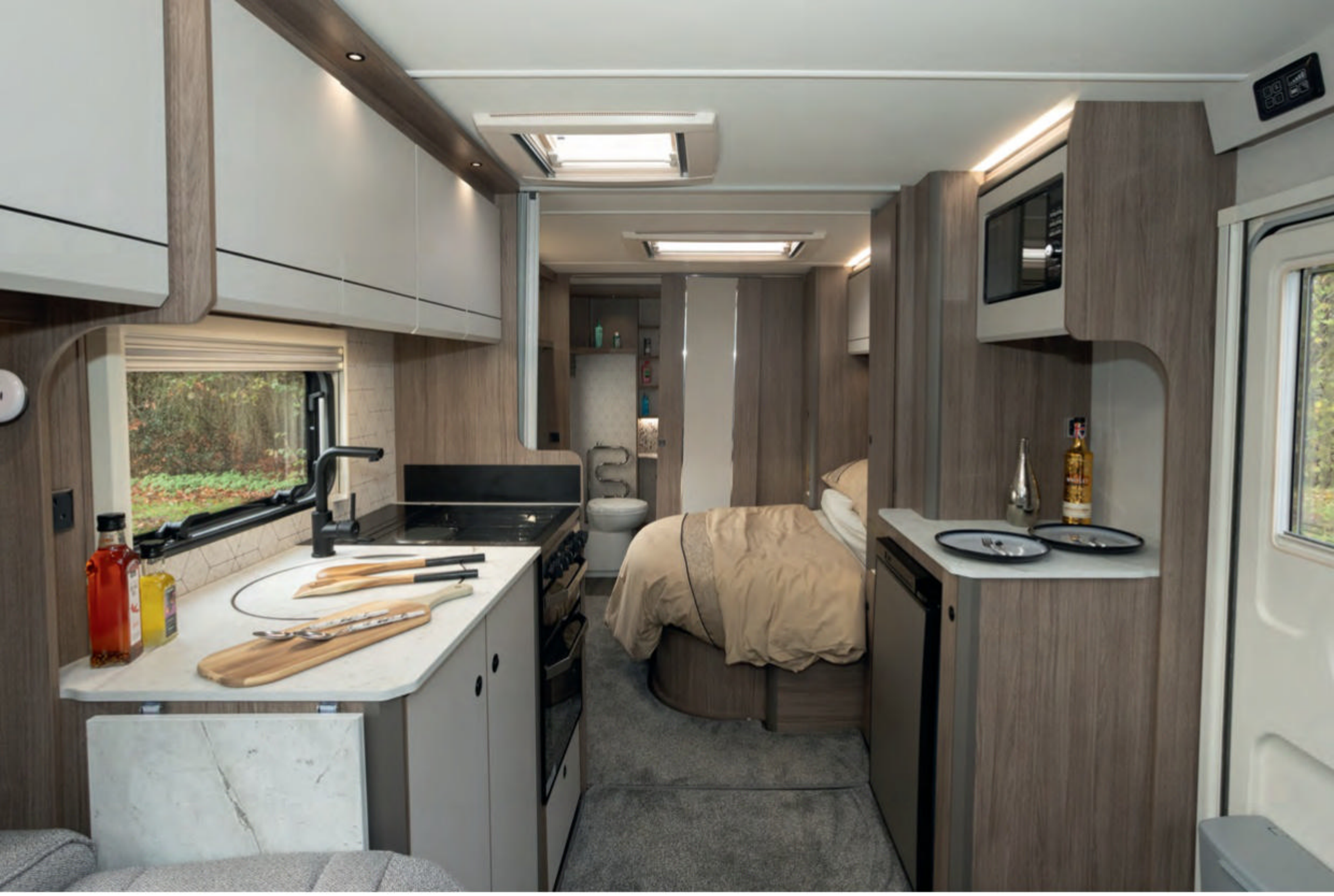


ABOVE There's a general air of luxury about the 575

and the extension in place, you have a 1.6m stretch of surface. And this kitchen has an important small area: a narrow strip of surface to the right of the hob, the perfect size for utensils. Opposite, above the fridge, is a 59cm by 54cm surface. So, in total, this kitchen has first-class surface space. The fridge is the 91-litre capacity model – not enormous, but quite sufficient. The double-doored kitchen cabinet is 70cm wide and contains a drawer of the same width – ample space for cutlery, utensils and more.

And this is where the high-quality plastic ridged drainer can live when it's not in use.

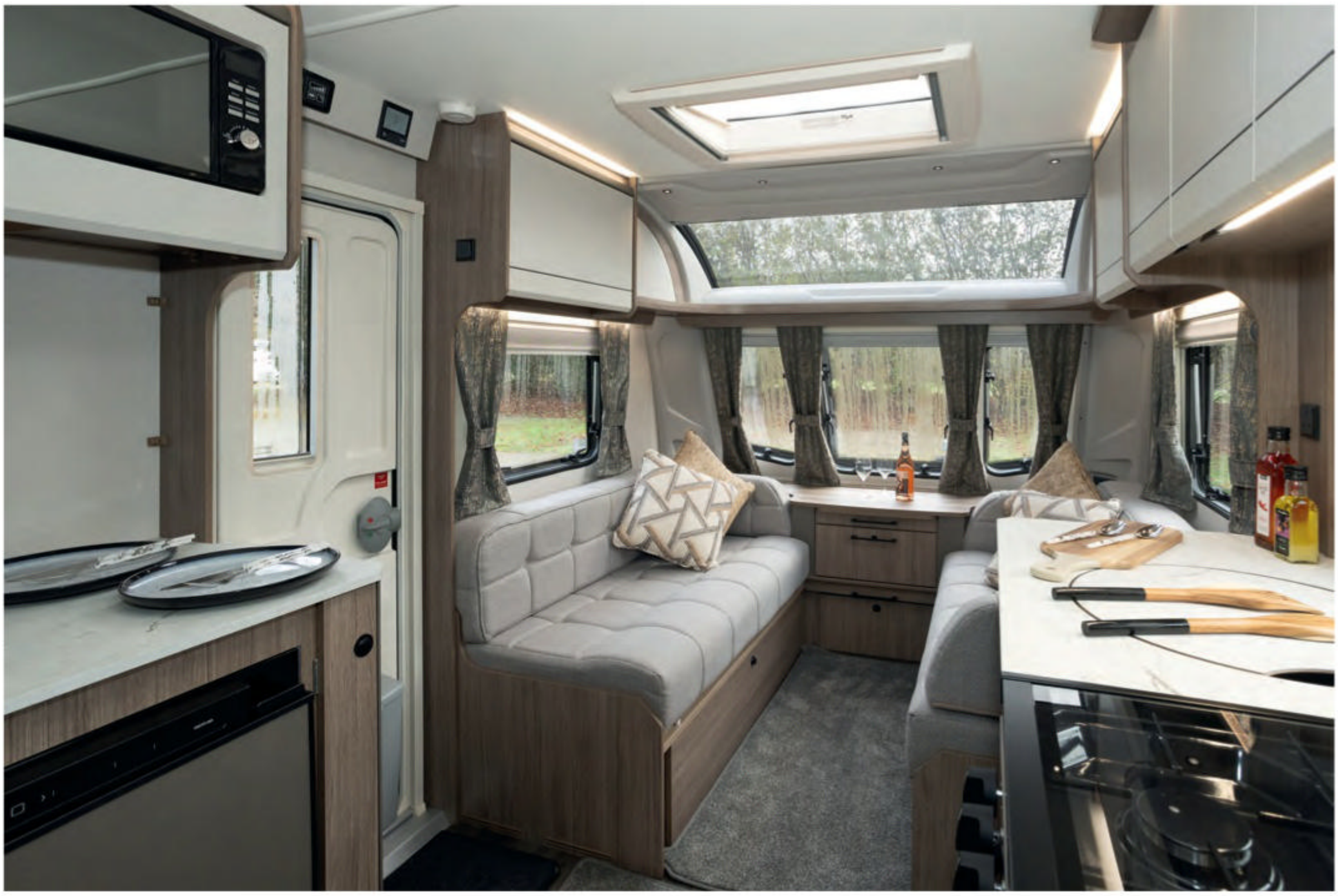
Bedroom ambience is lovely, characterised by the bedhead, upholstered in tactile suede-effect fabric in pale nut brown, and lighting concealed beneath the wardrobe doors, illuminating the marble-effect shelves that are ideally placed for phones. The pale gold and grey curtain panels play their part in creating the luxury look, too. And on the sliding door to the shower room is a full-height panel, bordered by a steel trim, and finished in cream with a very subtle diagonal-line pattern that is very similar to that on the top lockers.

There's a small dressing table; the surface measures 30cm by 30cm, with a cabinet beneath. Power and aerial sockets are here for in-bed television watching. Four shelves climb the wall alongside the mirror and a shelf runs along the top of the window, forming a pelmet for the curtain panels.

Shower room styling and practicality are both up there with the best, as you'd expect, given Coachman's prowess at shower room design. There's a foldable

BELOW LEFT A black tap and a rimless sink

BOTTOM RIGHT A dressing table with plenty of wall shelving



towel hook in the shower cubicle, plus a loop and double hook alongside the shower. And there's a towel warmer (part of the Alde system) that snakes its way up the rear wall alongside the washbasin unit; it gets so hot (as we discovered when we switched the heating on during our evaluation) that towels placed here will dry super-quickly.

Within the shower cubicle are two shelves for shower gels. The rectangular basin sits up above its surface, and the tap is black; a very on-trend style feature. Four shelves alongside the mirror and a large shelf that stretches along the back and offside wall give you ample space. The under-basin cabinet is 50cm wide. Nice touches are the lighting concealed above the mirror and also below it, illuminating the splashback.

Acadia equipment includes an alarm system, Al-Ko's automatic stability control system, USB sockets in the lounge and bedroom, and a receiver for an optional Al-Ko Secure wheel lock. Among other options are an Omnivent extractor fan and a tracker system.

ABOVE The lounge has a super-comfortable look and feel

RIGHT Interesting splashback and wall-cladding patterns

BELOW RIGHT The dresser-style unit houses both the fridge and the microwave

BOTTOM LEFT The sofas are very domestic in design

Thanks to...

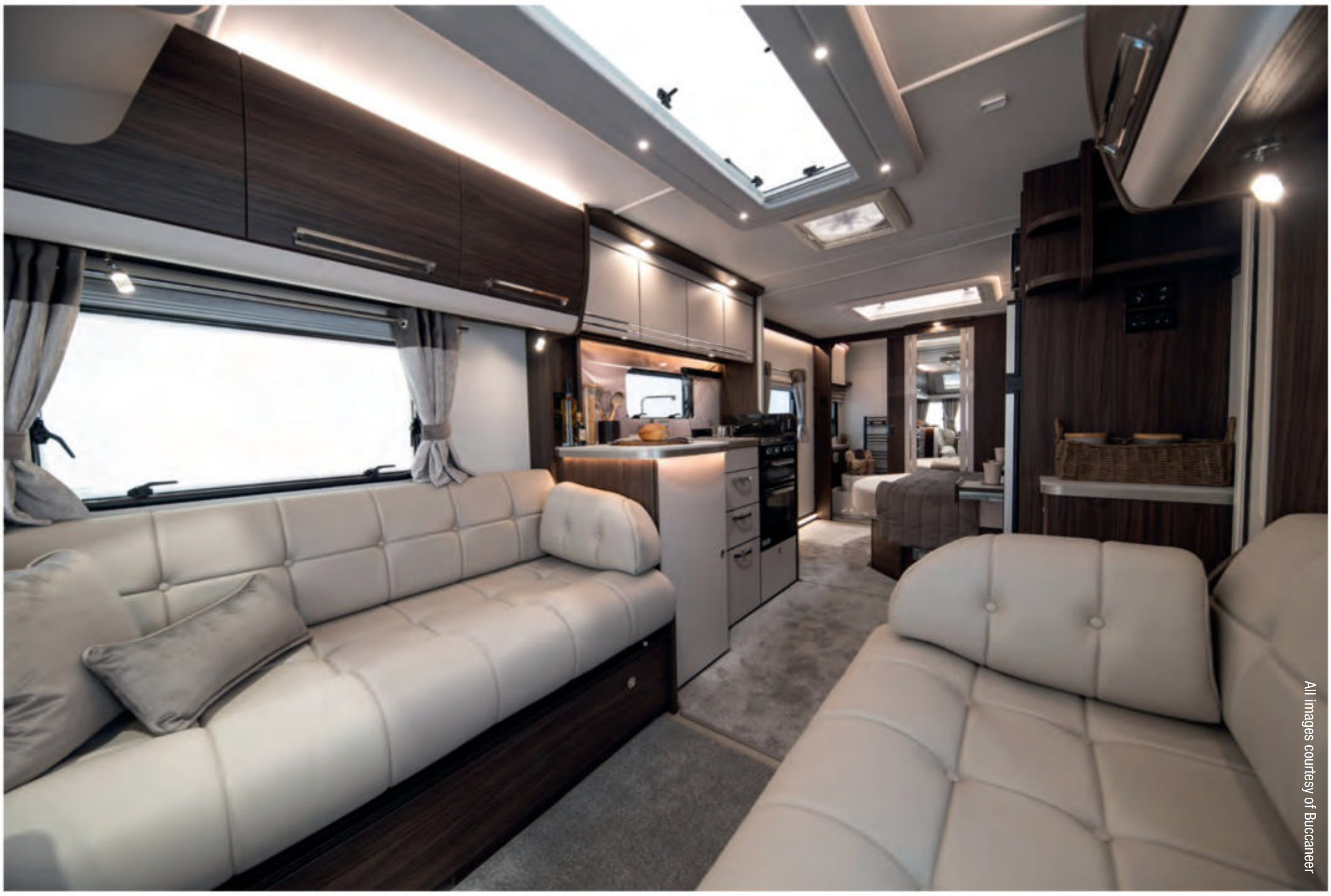
The Camping and Caravanning Club Delamere site, Cheshire

verdict It's 10 years since Coachman launched the 575 layout. In that time it has matured, with enhanced spec and, of course, visual changes. The Alde-heated Acadia 575 is a first-rate caravan in its class. Enough luxury to entice you, plenty of kitchen surface – and plenty of specification, too. And style? Interesting wallcoverings, nicely plain top locker doors, and a lovely warm-hue cushion and curtain fabric with shimmering gold to remind you that, although the Acadia 575 is Coachman's lowest-priced tourer of this layout, it is actually rather luxurious. ■

Opulent and super-spacious

Five opulent twin-axle tourers, eight feet wide and more than eight metres long, with underfloor heating and a self-levelling system

Words: Val Chapman



All images courtesy of Buccaneer

out&about LIVE

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SCAN ME

Buccaneers have always been high up among the leaders of the caravan world in terms of luxury. They're the flagship of the Erwin Hymer Group, which manufactures in County Durham. Long before the emergence of the standard of luxury that we see today, Buccaneers were leading the field from a small manufacturing base in Full Sutton, North Yorkshire; the brand became established in the 1960s. Buccaneer became part of Elddis in1998 and both became components of the Erwin Hymer Group in 2017.

Today's Buccaneer range offers four four-berths and a six-berth. They sit in the top sector of tourer spec and price, ranging from £45,699 to £46,999.

The range's standout spec features include a remote-controlled self-levelling system, and underfloor heating that works together with the Alde heating system.

The self-levelling system is an impressive piece of technology that automatically levels the caravan at a touch of a handset button and involved two giant axle stands to level the caravan laterally and four powered corner steadies that lower to level the caravan from front to back. It takes just two minutes.

Specific luxury touches inside include lighting streaming down from under the edges of the kitchen; bright downlighter spotlights; deep knee rolls and six cushions, all adding to the general feel of sophistication and supreme comfort.

Equipment includes a 40-litre on-board water tank, and the Alde Load Monitor that automatically turns off the heating when you use the microwave or other high-demand appliance, to prevent the circuit braker from tripping. There's a wireless charger with two USB ports; pocket-sprung mattress construction; an extractor far – and a lovely large (1.4m by 44cm) rooflight. A 100W solar panel is standard, too, as is an alarm system and Al-Ko's towing stability control system, ATC.

The combination of dark wood and pale cream cabinetry creates a sophisticated look. And buyer have the option to choose leather upholstery; it adds £2,541 to the cost. Other options include a WiFi system (£409); the router receives 3G/4G and creates a secure Wi-Fi hotspot.

CRUISER

The Cruiser's layout provides a rear shower room, a bed aligned across the caravan with the headboard on the nearside, and parallel lounge seating. The pale cream upholstered headboard that reaches all of the way up to the over-bed lockers and the wide, full-length mirror add to the boutique look of this bedroom. And pull-out shelves, ideal for morning coffee mugs, above the drawers that are under each of the wardrobes, mix luxury with practicality.

In the shower room, a tall towel warmer, finished in smart black, keeps the luxury theme going in the Cruiser and all of the Buccaneer models – and, in the shower cubicle, a panel of rock-effect 'tiles' is very on-trend domestic in style.

As with all Buccaneers, the carpet is luxuriously long-pile; cosy under your feet and also adding to the sophisticated look.

COMMODORE

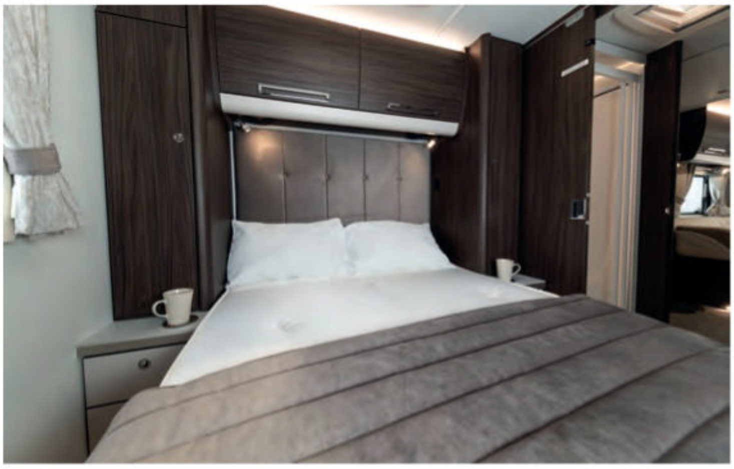
This model has its bedroom at the rear, totally separate from the rest of the caravan. The washing area is centrally located, with the shower on the nearside and the toilet-washbasin room opposite. This layout means that, should you transform the lounge into a bed, those sleeping there can get to the wash area from the front of the caravan; when you close the sliding door that separates the wash area from the bedroom, everyone gets privacy. A lovely versatile layout that appears in most manufacturers' ranges; here executed with full luxury.

Cruiser fact file

- **Price** £45,699
- **Berths** 4
- **Length**
  Body 6.39m
  Overall 8.18m
- **Width** 2.45m
- **Headroom** 1.96m
- **Weight**
  MIRO 1,776kg
  MTPLM 1,935kg

Commodore fact file

- **Price** £45,699
- **Berths** 4
- **Length**
  Body 6.39m
  Overall 8.18m
- **Width** 2.45m
- **Headroom** 1.96m
- **Weight**
  MIRO 1,801kg
  MTPLM 1,960kg



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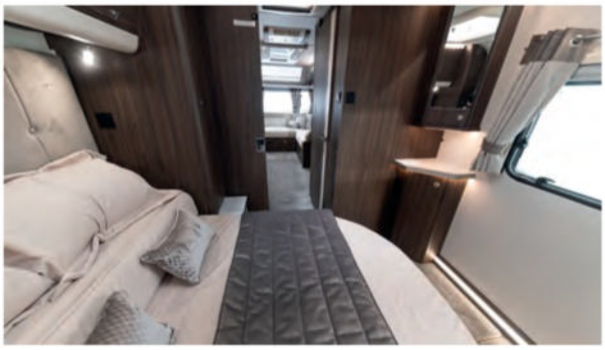


Bermuda fact file

- **Price** £46,499
- **Berths** 4
- **Length**
  Body 6.39m
  Overall 8.18m
- **Width** 2.45m
- **Headroom** 1.96m
- **Weight**
  MIRO 1,801kg
  MTPLM 1,960kg

Barracuda fact file

- **Price** £46,499
- **Berths** 4
- **Length**
  Body 6.39m
  Overall 8.18m
- **Width** 2.45m
- **Headroom** 1.96m
- **Weight**
  MIRO 1,791kg
  MTPLM 1,950kg

BERMUDA

This model has an L-shaped lounge configuration; it quickly makes into a double bed by pulling forward the base of the sofa across the front. On the nearside wall of the lounge is a media area, with connectivity, and a long shelf beneath that is stylishly illuminated from within.

The Bermuda has the same rear bedroom layout as the Commodore, with dressing tables in each of the offside corners, and the same shower-on-one-side, toilet-on-the-other arrangement. The kitchen is on the nearside, with a hinged extension on the forward end. The fridge is opposite, with a cabinet and drawers alongside it.

BARRACUDA

Another L-shaped lounge – this time with the media wall on the offside. The kitchen is on the offside, too, with the fridge/freezer opposite.

Like the Bermuda and Commodore, the shower zone is amidships. And this time, the bedroom has its bedhead against the rear wall. Which layout to prefer? It's a close call. All excel as luxury caravans for two or four. And all have a captivating level of opulence in all areas.

ARUBA

This is Buccaneer's family caravan, with beds for six. There's a fixed double bed in the nearside rear corner, plus another one to transform from the spacious offside four-person dining area. And you can use the parallel lounge sofas as single beds or make a double bed here (the central section of the base pulls out from under the chest of drawers).

The shower room, alongside the bed, is very nearly as large as one you'd find across the rear of a caravan. This arrangement of shower room alongside bed came into being with the arrival of the eight-feet-wide concept; it's a layout that would not have been possible in a standard-width caravan.

Aruba fact file

- **Price** £46,999
- **Berths** 6
- **Length**
  - **Body** 6.39m
  - **Overall** 8.18m
- **Width** 2.45m
- **Headroom** 1.96m
- **Weight**
  - **MIRO** 1,806kg
  - **MTPLM** 1,980kg

Hyundai

Ioniq 6 Ultimate

A car packed with neat touches like a 230V socket below the rear seats

Words & photography Daniel Attwood

ABOVE The Ioniq 6 has a shooting brake profile so has compromised luggage space compared to a true estate car

We're becoming increasingly accustomed to all-electric towcars and, as more new models come onto the market, so we are noticing both range and towing capacities increasing. Take this latest Ioniq 6 from Hyundai – it has a maximum braked towing capacity of 1,500kg. That opens up much more of the caravan market and means drivers of electric cars who were previously restricted to compact two-berth tourers can now consider true four-berth caravans.

Of course, the heavier the caravan, the more of the car's battery reserves will be needed to tow it. But with a light right foot and good anticipation, you should still be able to achieve a non-stop 180-mile trip with this Ioniq 6 towing a 1,500kg caravan.

To put this to the test, we headed off to the Lowdhams dealership in Nottinghamshire (which, as well as offering a comprehensive range of new and used leisure vehicles and a huge service centre, also has a café that's perfect if you're a coffee and cake addict like me.

I had hooked the Ioniq 6 up to a brand-new caravan that was close to the car's maximum towing capacity and it's a model likely to be purchased by a young touring family driving this new Hyundai.

In this case the perfect caravan was a four-berth Swift Sprite Exclusive Major 4 SB with an MTPLM of 1,491kg.

Before hitching up, we first had to attach the towbar – a £745 option. It feels like a step backwards to manually attach such an important piece of equipment to a brand-new all-electric car, especially as so many other towcars now have electric towbars.

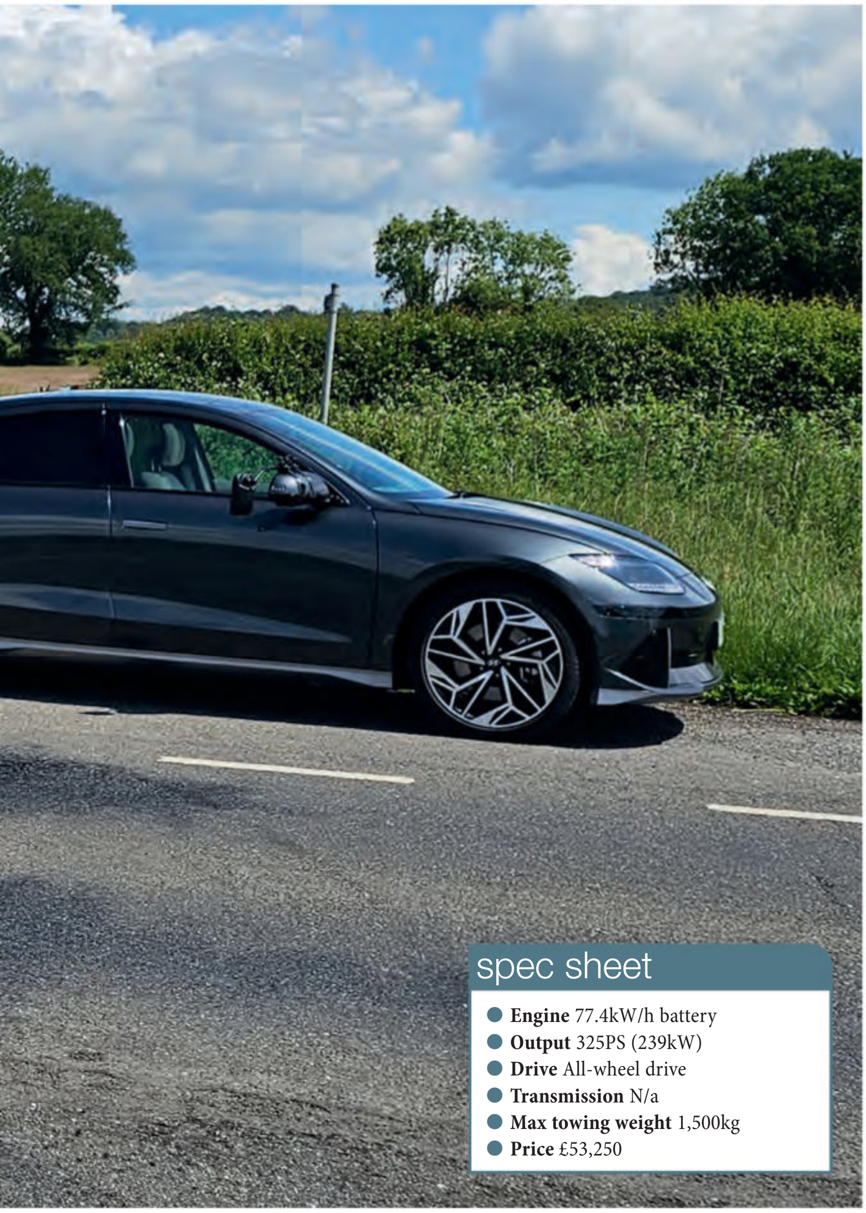
However, it only takes a few seconds once you become accustomed to the process and, once attached, reversing up to your tourer is a doddle thanks to the massive central info screen, which offers both a helicopter view down and a view through the crystal-clear rear view camera.

Driving is, as one would expect, stress-free thanks to the massive amount of power – 325PS – available and the fact that this power is sent to all four wheels using two motors (a 162kW rear motor and a 74kW front motor).

There are other neat touches that make this a pleasure to drive, such as the Bose sound system and a smart side camera system that reveals an appropriate rear view

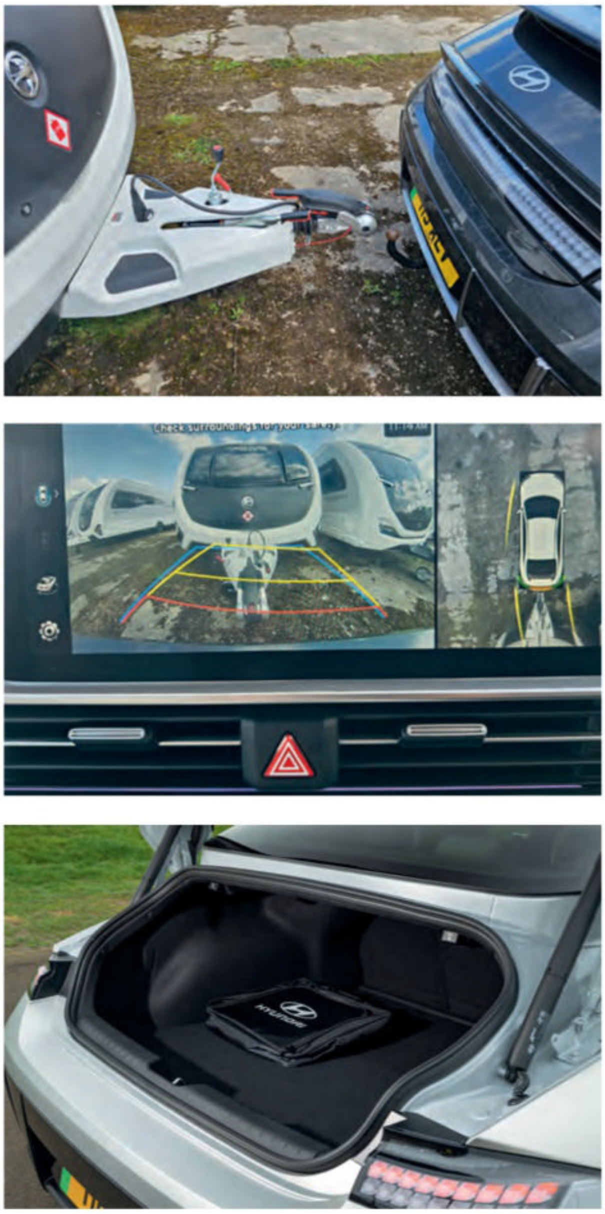
Thanks to...

Lowdhams Nottinghamshire
Hyundai UK



spec sheet

- **Engine** 77.4kW/h battery
- **Output** 325PS (239kW)
- **Drive** All-wheel drive
- **Transmission** N/a
- **Max towing weight** 1,500kg
- **Price** £53,250



ABOVE CLOCKWISE As with several other Far Eastern cars, the towbar has to be fitted and removed manually; The large screen offers a helicopter and rear view to aid reversing to hitch up; Boot space is not large so factor this in if you're buying this as a family car

down the side of the car on the dashboard while the indicator is activated (note that this car is available with full digital mirrors as an option but these are stalks rather than standard mirror-size, so check your caravan mirrors will attach to these before ordering).

In fact, this car is packed with neat touches, like a 230V socket below the rear seats (as well as 12V USBs and wireless chargers) so you can run and charge larger electrical equipment from the car. There are also buttons on the driver's side of the passenger seat which allow the driver to move and adjust the passenger seat without having to lean down or over – what a brilliant idea and why doesn't every car have these?

But back to what it is like to drive with a 1.5-tonne caravan attached and, what impressed immediately are the steering wheel paddle shifts, which work as if the car has a standard automatic transmission and allow you to use 'engine braking' while theoretically changing down through the gears. Of course, you do neither – the car simply creates more regenerative force to rechange the battery as you 'change down'. This is incredibly useful when exiting on a motorway slip road while towing as it significantly enhances braking efficiency (and of course also recharges the battery).

And, talking of the battery, before we hitched up the Swift, we achieved an average of 3.7 miles per kW/h, which equates to roughly an amazing 150mpg in old money. This gave us a range of 302 miles on a full charge.

Once hitched up, we achieved an average of 2.2 miles per kW/h over a course that involved stop/start, hard acceleration and deceleration, cruising at 50mph and motorway cruising at 60mph. So, we lost around 40% of the car's range while towing, which gives us that 180-mile towing range. It's probable this can be extended by efficient driving mainly at cruising speed on a clear, bright and warm day (no windscreen wipers, no headlights and no air-con). If you're towing on a winter's morning, that range will reduce.

verdict For those looking for a mid-range all-electric towcar, this latest Hyundai has to be a serious contender. With zero emissions, meaning low Benefit in Kind for company car drivers and currently just £10 road tax (then £195 from year two), and yet a range of over 300 miles when not towing and an estimated range of 180 miles when towing, it ticks a lot of boxes. The downside is the manual towbar and the smaller luggage capacity (401 litres with the seats up) than a true estate car but, if you're happy with these, then this is one great-looking zero-emissions towcar. ■

Showered with information

Is an external shower a luxury? To some extent, yes – but for dog owners it's a very desirable and practical addition. Great for cleaning muddy boots, too

mpenke/pixabay

Caravans are, of course, homes from home, with many being fitted with the luxuries of daily life which we have now come to expect.

External showers are an invaluable addition to this. They bring a whole new level of practicality for outdoor adventuring, offering a simple, yet effective solution for cleaning up without dragging mud and mess into your living space. Whether you're washing mud off hiking boots or giving the dog's paws a rinse, external showers provide flexibility that indoor set-ups struggle to match.

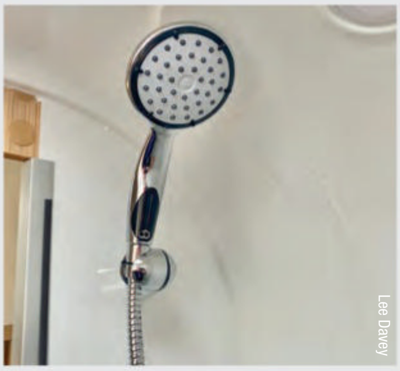
WHY CONSIDER AN EXTERNAL SHOWER?

Imagine this: a June weekend, blue skies promised a perfect walk, but an hour in, grey clouds rolled in and the heavens opened. My partner and I trudged back, soaked through and caked in mud from our boots to our jeans. It's on days like this that an external shower becomes a game-changer – quickly hosing down your shoes and clothes outside before setting foot onto the caravan's doormat saves time and effort and also prevents a major clean-up later.

manfredrichter/pixabay

Richard Chapman

Showering dogs' paws and fur is super-easy with an external shower!



Lee Davey

Caravan showers are luxurious – but external showers offer an added benefit to outdoor activities

INSTALLING AN EXTERNAL SHOWER TO YOUR CARAVAN

Fitting an external shower point is a practical DIY job. Kits like the Whale Easi-Slide system offer slimline units that don't intrude on the caravan's profile. Before you start, though, consider your caravan's warranty. If your caravan is still under warranty, you may invalidate it by fitting an external shower.

If you're OK to fit one in terms of warranty, here's a brief overview:

- Choose a suitable location considering internal plumbing
- Cut a hole using the template supplied
- Brace and seal between the inner and outer skins carefully
- Secure the external shower unit with sealant and screws
- Connect to existing water lines using push-fit connectors

For those cautious about DIY, many approved service centres can professionally install one for you.

Olpro

The Olpro Pop-Up Shower and Utility Tent provides a private space in which to use your external shower

PORTABLE AND POP-UP SOLUTIONS

These are a great alternative if your warranty prohibits cutting a hole in the caravan's side. Portable shower systems bring similar benefits with minimal set-up.

For instance, the Streetwize 12V Portable Shower offers an instant and compact solution. Plug it into a 12V socket in your caravan and you're ready for a quick washdown. With an adjustable water flow and a long hose, it's designed for outdoor adventurers needing to wash off mud from boots, etc.

If you want to use it as a proper shower, a pop-up tent is the perfect companion. The Olpro Pop-Up Shower and Utility Tent provides a waterproof, private space to use your portable shower. It's lightweight, easy to pack and features a removable groundsheet to customise your set-up.

Olpro

Olpro USB Battery Portable Shower

FINAL REFLECTIONS

An external shower may seem like an optional extra, but once installed, it can quickly feel essential.

Whether it's cleaning up after a muddy hike, rinsing off sandy feet, or making sure the dog's paws are well cleaned, external showers add real value to caravanning and work to maintain the overall cleanliness of your caravan. ■

Tow with confidence

Your at-a-glance guide to towing gives you the facts and figures you need, plus towbar types, caravan loading, noseweight – and towing courses

Richard Chapman

Towing a caravan might seem daunting at first, but with a few straightforward tips and the right information, your journeys can be smooth, safe and enjoyable.

Whether you're heading to a local site or touring across Europe, understanding how to safely tow a caravan is essential. Here, we cover everything you need to know – from driving licence laws and loading tips to essential equipment and safety regulations.

DRIVING LICENCES AND TOWING ENTITLEMENTS

A standard car 'B licence' granted after 1st January, 1997 traditionally meant that the maximum combined weight of the car and caravan could not exceed 3,500kg, but this changed in 2021. B licences were automatically granted BE status, which allows the holder to tow a caravan that weighs a maximum of 3,500kg, providing the tow vehicle is legally capable of doing so.

To check if BE status has been applied to your B licence, read the UK Gov Guidelines (gov.uk/view-driving-licence)

TOWING CAPACITY OF YOUR CAR

Always double-check your car's towing capacity. The important figure is the car's kerbweight, not its gross weight. But some cars have a towing capacity that is lower than their kerbweight.

Next, look at your caravan's MTPLM (maximum technically permissible laden mass).

Both UK caravanning Clubs recommend that, for novice towers, your caravan's MTPLM should not exceed 85% of your car's kerbweight. Experienced drivers may go up to 100%, but never exceed the manufacturer's towing limit listed in your car's handbook.

UK TOWING LIMITS AND WIDTH RESTRICTIONS

The maximum caravan width allowable in the UK is 2.55m, and if you're towing with a car under 3,500kg gross weight, your caravan's body length must not exceed 7m (excluding the drawbar).

TOWING COURSES

Towing and manoeuvring courses from the Caravan and Motorhome Club and Camping and Caravanning Club are ideal for beginners – and actually quite valuable for experienced towers, too; it's amazing what you can learn from experts, and some insurance providers offer discounts for course completion.

Courses teach you key skills, including reversing, safety checks, hitching and handling.

The Caravan and Motorhome Club runs courses specifically for beginners (£218 for a day and a half of tuition), plus courses on manoeuvring (£188 for one day of tuition). They are available at 17 locations, in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The Camping and Caravanning Club runs courses at its headquarters in Coventry. There's a course designed for complete beginners; one for more experienced caravanners, and a two-day course designed to build your confidence.

HOW TO LOAD A CARAVAN

Correct loading is essential for stability. There are a few golden rules:

- Place heavy items such as an awning on the floor, and near the axle
- Store medium-weight items under seats or beds
- Put lightweight items in top lockers
- Avoid placing weight at either end of the caravan
- Ensure the MTPLM is never exceeded. Calculate the weight of your caravanning equipment by weighing items individually (bathroom scales are the obvious tool for this). Factor in any equipment that has been fitted to the caravan since it left the factory, such as motor movers and solar panels.

TOWING MIRRORS

These are a legal requirement. You must be able to see 20 meters behind you and four meters on either side of the caravan. If you tow without mirrors, you can be fined £1,000 and receive three penalty points.

CARAVAN NOSEWEIGHT

Your caravan's noseweight is the downward force on the towball. This should be 5-7% of your caravan's MTPLM.

Use a noseweight gauge, or bathroom scales with a wooden prop, so that you can measure it accurately.

Make sure your towbar is rated for the noseweight – check the car handbook or sticker on the towbar.

NATIONAL SPEED LIMITS FOR TOWING

In the UK, on a single carriageway, it's 50mph; on dual carriageways and motorways, it's 60mph

TIP: When on a downhill gradient, reduce speed by gently applying the brakes. This is because, when you're going down a hill, the weight of the caravan exerts pressure on the car's towball. This can result in instability and can lead to the dreaded snaking motion.

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CHOOSING THE RIGHT TOWBAR

There are two main types of towbars: fixed flange, and swan neck. The latter can be either fixed or detachable.

Which type of towbar you choose depends on two factors. One is price, the other is aesthetics.

The towbar assembly has several components, notably the hidden structure which fits to your car's chassis; the towball is attached to this.

The flange type is the most cost-effective type of towball. The towball fits to a flange plate, and has two 24mm bolts holding it in place.

The swan neck name of this style comes from the shape of the unit as it curves up from the towbar to the ball. It looks more attractive than the flange type, because it's neater. Even more attractive is the removable swan neck type. The mechanism is a twist-and-push fit, with a key-locking system. Some vehicles come with clip-on panels to hide the towbar mount. Detachable towbars are more expensive than the fixed flange and swan neck types.

There are also retractable towballs. The retractable towbar hinges out from a hidden location under your car. You lock it into position when you need it. Some retractable towbars operate at the press of a button. The ball swings into position ready to tow.

There are towbar fitting specialists throughout the UK; some will even come to your house to fit a towbar.

THE COMPONENTS OF THE HITCH AREA

The breakaway cable: a small but important safety feature that ensures your caravan brakes apply in the unlikely event of the caravan becoming detached from the car.

The jockey wheel: this allows for easy manoeuvring and levelling.

Hitch-head stabilisers: most caravans now feature Al-Ko hitch-head stabilisers. These reduce the risk of snaking (sideways movement and pitching on uneven roads. They incorporate friction pads which exert pressure on the towball, generating a damping force.

ATC (Al-Ko Active Trailer Control): many caravans are fitted with this device, which is an electronic system that helps prevent snaking. It constantly monitors the caravan's movement and detects the first signs of a snaking motion, and then corrects it by automatically applying the caravan brakes. The system can be retrofitted.

KEEPING YOUR TOWBALL CLEAN

Keep it free from road dirt by using a towball cap (available from caravan accessory shops) and by cleaning it regularly with white spirit. When your towball is new it will be coated with black paint. It may seem strange, but you have to remove this paint, using emery paper, before you tow.

Both of these points will prevent damage to the friction pads inside the hitch-head stabiliser.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Towing a caravan is easier than ever – with technology such as hitch-head stabilisers and ATC, and support from experienced Clubs in the form of courses, there's no reason to hold back.

Our advice, master the basics like loading, noseweight and legal limits, and you'll be enjoying towing in no time. ■

QUESTIONS & answers

Our caravan expert, Lee Davey, answers your questions

Awnings: air or poles?

Q I'm looking to buy an awning. Are air awnings easier than traditional pole-framed ones?

A I tend to find them quicker and easier, but it ultimately comes down to personal preference. With an air awning, once you've pulled the awning through the caravan's awning channel, you simply inflate the built-in inflatable beams. Most air porch awnings can be set up in 10–20 minutes, and many can be set up solo. They're convenient if you frequently tour and want to set up quickly.

They're also more forgiving on uneven ground. And there are no 'what goes where' pole complications! That said, they are heavier when pulling through the awning channel than awnings with pole frames, as it's a one-piece unit.

How to keep fridge contents cool on a ferry crossing

Q How can I keep the fridge cold during an overnight ferry crossing? It's a gas fridge, and I assume the gas must be turned off.

A Yes, the gas must be turned off before boarding a ferry, but there are other ways to keep fridge contents cool. I freeze one or two two-litre bottles of drinking water beforehand and place them in the fridge before we travel. This tends to keep the contents cool and provides us with water to drink should we decide to make a stop before arriving at our first campsite.

What cleaning products to use inside a caravan?

Q We're planning to give the caravan a good clean. Is it OK to use household cleaning products inside the caravan?

A In many cases, yes – but with caution. While some household cleaners can be used safely inside your caravan, it's important to choose products that won't damage the lightweight materials and delicate finishes commonly found in caravans.

For example, multi-surface sprays and mild detergents are generally suitable for worktops and cupboards, but avoid anything too abrasive, such as scouring creams or pads, as they can scratch plastic and laminate surfaces. This is especially true of washbasins and shower cubicle trays.

When it comes to the toilet, always use products designed for caravan toilets. Standard household bleach or disinfectants can mark the plastic and interfere with the breakdown of waste in the cassette.

ASK THE EXPERTS... Email your tech questions and pictures to caravan@warnersgroup.co.uk or, if you prefer to post, write to Questions & Answers, *Caravan* Magazine, The Maltings, West Street, Bourne, Lincs PE10 9PH

Easy disposal of waste water

Q As new caravanners, we're getting to grips with most caravan-related tasks, but how do I empty the waste water container without making a mess?

A I assume you are using a waste water container, such as a Wastemaster. If so, these make it easy to dispose of waste water. Wheel the container to the designated wastewater disposal point at your site. To avoid glugging, remove the bottom cap and lift the handle a foot or so from the ground. Open the top cap halfway, allowing air to enter. Lift slowly until the Wastemaster is empty. Replace the caps and rinse the container and the disposal point.

Signs of the dreaded water ingress

Q What are the signs that a caravan water ingress issue is serious?

A These are common signs that water ingress may be present:

Soft walls or flooring: If panels feel spongy to the touch or floors feel slightly flexible underfoot, moisture may have already damaged the internal structure.

A persistent musty smell: A lingering damp or mouldy odour, especially after airing out the caravan, usually indicates water ingress rather than just condensation.

Discoloured patches: Dark staining, yellow marks, or bubbling under wallpaper and wallboard are all signs that moisture is present behind the scenes.

Visible mould: Black spots around windows, corners, or in cupboards may indicate dampness, but this could also be a ventilation issue.

High moisture readings: a professional damp meter test can reveal elevated levels in walls or ceilings before visible signs appear.

If you spot any of these signs, it's best to act quickly. Dampness doesn't go away on its own, and the longer it's left, the worse (and more expensive) the damage can get. Getting a damp check from a qualified caravan technician can save money; it's normally part of a caravan service, but if you are concerned between services, get it checked.

A basic caravan toolkit

Q What should I pack in a basic caravan tool kit?

A A well-stocked toolkit can save your holiday should the unexpected happen. A few essentials will help you tackle common fixes and adjustments. Here's a good basic kit to start with:

- **Screwdrivers – flathead and Phillips**
- **Adjustable spanner**
- **Pliers – regular and needle-nose**
- **Small socket set**
- **Wheel brace**
- **Tyre pressure gauge**
- **Duct tape, cable ties and bungee cords**
- **Hammer or mallet**
- **WD-40 or similar lubricant**
- **Torch or headlamp**
- **Torque wrench**
- **Disposable gloves (also handy when emptying the loo!)**

As with anything caravan-related, it's better to have it and not need it than the other way around!

Gas safety advice

Q We're pretty new to caravanning. What do I need to know about using gas safely in a caravan?

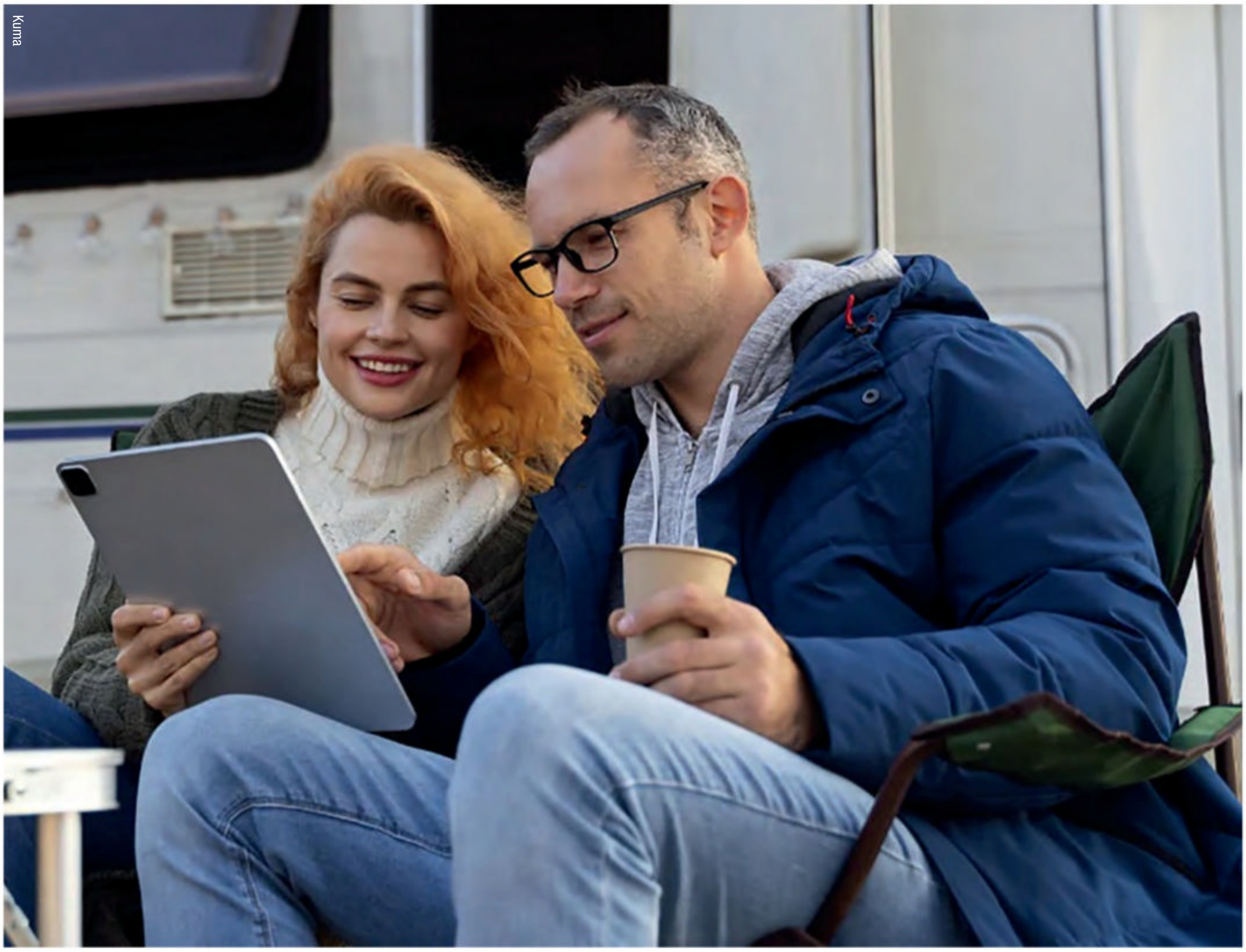
A Gas is essential in most caravans, but safety must come first. Always use have your gas system regularly inspected and checked by a licensed technician; this will be included in a caravan's annual service. Ventilation is critical — never block vents and use appliances only as intended (for indoor or outdoor use). Fit a carbon monoxide detector and test it often. And finally, store gas bottles upright in the caravan's dedicated, ventilated compartment and keep a fire extinguisher and blanket on board.

GOT A QUERY? Our expert team is happy to answer your questions, whether they relate to touring or towing, DIY or disasters! Whatever it is that's been causing you bother, we are on hand to help!

FOLLOW Find Lee Davey here:
TinTent tin.tent TinTent

Staying connected

Getting online from your pitch is easier than ever. Your guide to caravan WiFi takes you through routers, boosters, hotspots, MiFis, fitted systems – and also Starlink


Kuma

One of the best parts of a caravan holiday is escaping the pressures of everyday life – trading Microsoft Teams and Outlook for coastlines and countryside lanes. But even surrounded by the great outdoors, many of us still want (or in some cases need) a good slice of connectivity.

So, whether you're streaming your favourite television show, checking in with work, or keeping the family entertained, having access to WiFi in your caravan is more useful than ever. From campsite signals to satellite-powered solutions, here is your complete guide to getting online while on tour.

CAMPSITE WIFI, CONVENIENT BUT VARIABLE

Many caravan parks offer free or low-cost WiFi, but performance can vary wildly depending on the location and time of day. Rural sites often struggle with limited infrastructure and because of this, shared bandwidth can quickly become overwhelmed when everyone logs on – particularly in the evenings when families return from a day out.

If your needs are simply checking emails or briefly browsing the web, campsite WiFi may be enough. But for anything more intensive, it's worth considering your own set-up.

CARAVAN ROUTERS

Some routers designed for caravans work in two ways: they either boost a weak WiFi signal or use a SIM card to connect via 4G or 5G networks.

Routers which have SIM slots can switch automatically between campsite WiFi and mobile data – giving you an always-on experience. Some can even come with external aerials (either directional or omnidirectional) for improved signal reception.

This is a good choice for people who are regularly on the move and need consistent connectivity.

MIFI DEVICES

Small and battery-powered, a MiFi device uses a SIM card to access mobile data and can support multiple devices at once. Think of this as a personal mobile hotspot, one which is ideal for caravanners wanting flexibility, offering fair speeds and often unlimited data plans.

Keep an eye out for newer models with long battery life and dual-band connections for faster speeds.

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USING YOUR MOBILE AS A HOTSPOT

A simple and quick solution is tethering your smartphone. Just enable the hotspot feature and connect your devices.

This is indeed very easy to do and most, if not all, modern androids and iPhones support this feature. I must provide one significant warning, however: ensure you check your monthly data allowance!

I have made this (rather rookie) mistake too many times. When I hotspot my data, my partner and I watch a film, or catch up on whatever Netflix show we are watching and then the next day I receive a text from my network provider informing me that I have used all of my mobile data.

After all, streaming or video calls can burn through data quickly, leading to hefty charges if you exceed your plan. If you are not unlimited, then this is perfect for occasional browsing, but keep an eye on the data usage.

STARLINK

If you're venturing far beyond the grid, Starlink – a satellite internet service from SpaceX – is now an option for caravanners.

It essentially uses a portable satellite dish and router to beam internet directly from space and in-turn delivering home-like speeds almost anywhere with a clear view of the sky. And by anywhere, Starlink means business. In some cases and under specific Starlink packages, this can be used in motion and not just standstill. There are even stories of users using Starlink in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, with further plans to connect internet through to the Sahara Desert. This new technology has certainty opened many new routes for internet connectivity and, in this case, many new roads, campsites and patches across the UK/Europe you may have always wanted to explore.

One downside, however: the hardware isn't cheap and you'll pay a monthly subscription, but for frequent explorers it's a game-changer and has the ability to connect you wherever you may be.

Wave Internet

FITTED CARAVAN WIFI SYSTEMS

For those wanting a permanent solution, purpose-built WiFi systems for caravans offer high-speed access and can even double as TV aerials.

These are often mounted on the caravan roof with internal routers installed inside. A 12V power supply is typically required and professional installation is needed to maintain warranties.

The investment can be significant (with prices nearing £1,000 for premium models), but it's a reliable option for serious internet users.

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WIFI BOOSTERS

If your site offers WiFi but your pitch struggles to pick it up, a booster could significantly help with this. These units amplify existing signals, improving coverage and speed inside your caravan.

As they are already connected to and use the existing WiFi network, you won't pay extra data charges, but having said that, they rely on a base signal being available – they can't create connectivity from scratch. I've used these devices frequently in the past, and while they only make a small difference, sometimes they provide just enough of a boost to cut buffering time from 20 minutes, down to 10. They are not a guaranteed or long-term solution, but considering their price, they definitely offer some value.

BUDGET OPTIONS

If your usage is light, you may not need to spend big.

Basic dongles start from around £30 and can provide occasional access, while MiFi devices with pay-as-you-go data plans offer flexible alternatives without the need for contracts.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Choosing the right WiFi setup for your caravan comes down to how much you want to be connected.

Casual users may get by with campsite WiFi or phone tethering, while regular streamers or remote workers may need a more reliable and permanent solution.

With so many options now available – including satellite – getting online from your pitch is easier than ever. Just remember to balance convenience, cost and coverage to find the right fit for your travels. ■

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Words: Mike Hallam, **Your Dog** Editor

Paws on tour

Make travel comfortable for your dog

It's the journey, not the destination, as the saying goes. And when it comes to getting away with your canine companion, it's vital that the journey is as comfortable as possible. Travel can be nauseating, stressful and uncomfortable for dogs. We share our top tips to help your pet become a relaxed road tripper…

SAFE AND COMFORTABLE

It's absolutely vital that your pet travels safely – and the Highway Code states that dogs need to be 'suitably restrained.' This is so your pet doesn't distract you while you're driving, and helps reduce the risk to all passengers in the event of an accident.

PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

- **Tavo Hendrick**

If your pets prefer a secure, enclosed travelling environment, take a look at the new Hendrick from Tavo, priced at £300. It has Isofix latching points that can be quicky released at the push of a button. A structured base prevents sagging and mesh panels provide ventilation and viewing windows. This crash-tested carrier also has memory foam side impact protection.

W **tavopets.com/uk**

Whether you decide to use a car harness, travel crate, or barrier to contain your pet, also think about what your dog would find most comfortable.

Tavo, for example offers the Maeve pet travel system and the Crispin travel crate, as reviewed previously. Would they prefer to hide away in a travel crate or enjoy a bit more freedom? You can then make it a cosy spot with blankets and their toys.

MAKE IT FAMILIAR

Dogs thrive on familiarity. Before you travel, try to stick to your dog's usual routine. Once aboard, place items, such as favourite toys and blankets, in your dog's area so there are scents they will recognise. Travel water bottles are great for providing a mess-free way of your dog having a drink. In between lengthy trips, it can be worth putting your dog in your car and rewarding them for settling while it's stationary. Slowly build up to taking short journeys and reward them for calm behaviour.

TAKE BREAKS

Once you're on the road, plan stops, so your dog can stretch their legs and have a toilet break.

ENCOURAGE CALMING BEHAVIOUR

You can help your dog settle by providing a chew or treat-filled toy for them to work on. This is a fun and rewarding distraction, and releases positive hormones from the chewing or licking action. Pheromone diffusers and calming sprays can be another useful option, as they send natural calming messages. If your dog really struggles, contact your vet. Your vet will be able to recommend suitable products and even prescribe anti-anxiety medication if suitable.

COMBAT TRAVEL SICKNESS

The motion and anxiety of travelling can commonly combine to cause car sickness in dogs. Signs of nausea can include:

- Vomiting
- Drooling
- Panting
- Whining
- Yawning
- Lip licking
- Retching

If your dog suffers from car sickness, book them an appointment with your vet. You will need to build your dog's confidence with travelling but it is much easier to do this with your vet's support. You can discuss with them options including anti-anxiety medications and calming products which will help your dog settle enough that they can begin to build positive associations with travel.

SAVE ON DOG BEDS

TUFFIES TAILOR-MADE SERVICE

Tuffies was voted Best Dog Bed 2025 by the readers of *Your Dog* magazine and one of those reasons is its bespoke service that allows you to find the exact fit for the space available, meaning it won't slide around on the road.

Call 01888 563288 and quote TOUR75 to get a 7.5% discount until the end of July 2025.

For the full range head to **tuffies.co.uk**

YOUR DOG **Interested in more great dog advice and inspiration? See Your Dog magazine W yourdog.co.uk**

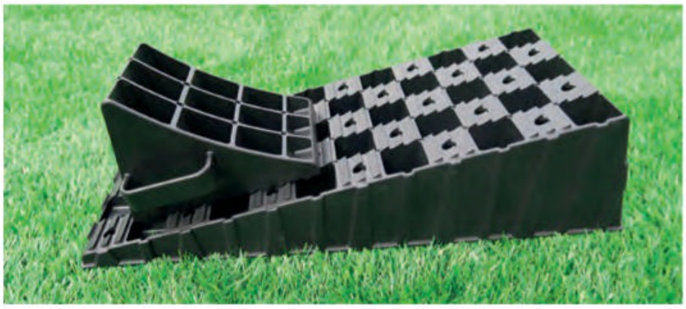
NEW GEAR

Getting a caravan level on an uneven pitch can be a challenge. However, there's some superb kit available to answer this need. We've also been looking at a pair of grip mats, for use when wet grass presents a difficulty.

Our online shop is a top place to search for kit of this nature, as well as other outlets. We also found an easy-to-attach wheel clamp. Almost all caravan insurance policies state that wheel clamps must be used and, although most caravans now have Al-Ko Secure wheel lock receivers, a few may not, especially if it's an older model – and in any case, an additional lock placed on the wheel on the opposite side of the caravan is a belt-and-braces approach to security.

Browse through the selection of accessories at
W outandaboutshop.hooluh.co.uk

Milenco MGI Caravan Wedge Levels



A wide variety of levelling blocks are available. These are for levelling from side to side. You place a levelling ramp in front of, or behind the wheel on the side that needs to be raised, then tow the caravan up it until the caravan is level. How to tell when it's level? Most phones have a levelling app. If not, then you can resort to something really old-school: a glass of water, placed in the doorway of the caravan; when the caravan is level, so will be the surface of the water!

One example is Milenco's MGI Caravan and Motorhome Wedge Levels. Each wedge weighs 1.5kg. They're made from high-density polyethylene. They are 15cm in height, 45cm in length, and 20cm in width.

PRICE Around **£32 per pair**

Milenco Support Steadies Stacka Corner Feet 4 Pack

These fit to the corner steadies, by means of a steel bar that fixes through the structure of the corner steadies. They increase the area that each corner steady occupies, enhancing stability on soft ground. Once fixed, they're permanently attached.

PRICE Around **£24.94**

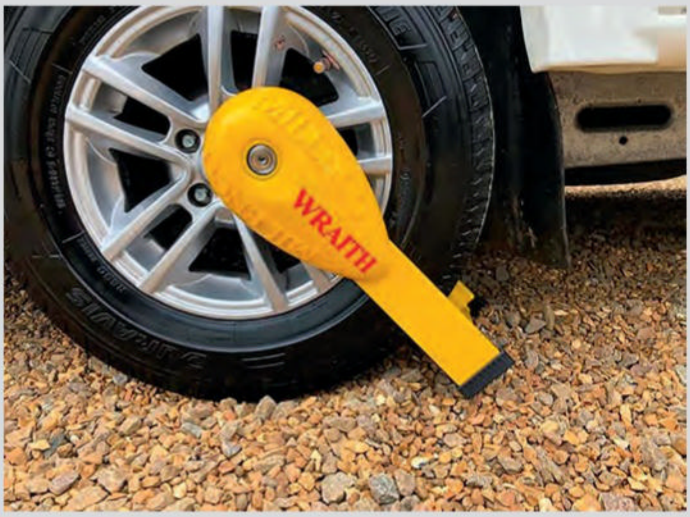
Leisurewize Pro Paw Caravan Feet with Metal Pins

If you are looking for an alternative that costs less, look at this set. It's supplied with metal pins to fit through the corner steadies.

Each foot – or paw!– weighs half a kilo. They are made from durable UV-stabilised polypropylene.

PRICE Around **£16.61**

Milenco Wraith 3 Caravan Wheel Lock Clamp



This wheel lock is rated as quick to fit and remove, so is as ideal for use on a campsite as it is when your caravan is in a storage compound or in your garden.

It weighs 4.5kg and is made from high-grade steel. It has a high-security lock with anti-pick and anti-drill technology.

It has a corrosion-resistant coating and is certified to exceed Sold Secure Gold standards. Sold Secure is run by the Master Locksmiths Association and is, says the Sold Secure website, "dedicated to reducing the risk of crime by the assessment of security products through manual attack testing". It has gold status offering theft resistance against a dedicated tool list.

PRICE Around **£154**

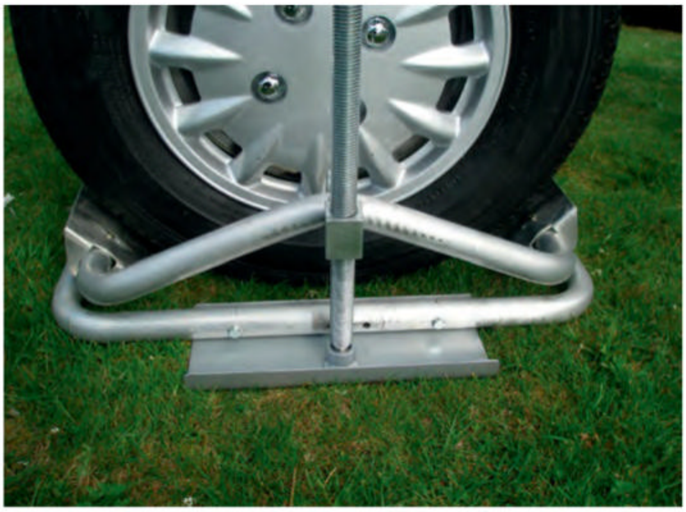
Streetwize Set of Four Stak-a-Set Caravan Levelling Blocks

These are circular blocks that you place under your corner steadies on a pitch with an uneven surface, to provide extra height under the corner steadies.

They are made from high-density polyethylene. Each block weighs 1.5kg and measures 22cm by 22cm, and 11cm deep. They interlock, so they can be stacked, to enable you to use more than one if you need to give front or rear corner steadies extra height on a sloping pitch. We've owned a set of these for a long time; we've actually not used them very often – but when we encounter sloping pitches, they are invaluable – and super-easy to slide into place under the corner steadies.

PRICE Around **£16.99**

Milenco Aluminium Leveller



If you want something really beefy to level your caravan, consider this one. It's made of aluminium. It will raise a caravan wheel by up to 12cm. You place it around the wheel and, using the ratchet supplied with it, turn the screw until the wheel begins to raise.

For twin-axle caravans you will need two. Each weighs 4.8kg. Dimensions are 80cm in length, 20cm in width, and 10cm in height. They are complete with carry cases and integrated chocks to prevent the caravan from moving during levelling.

PRICE Around **£169.93**

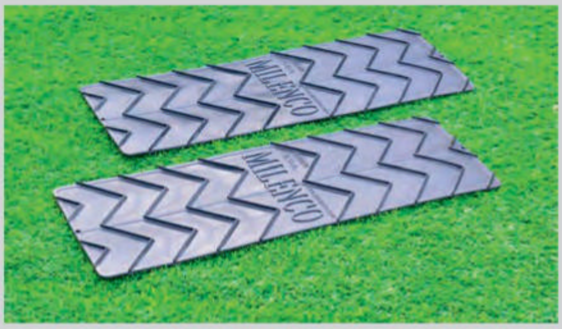
Milenco Caravan Extra Wide Grip Mats

We've all been there: the grass on your pitch is rain-soaked. You hitch up and begin to tow off – only to discover that the wet grass has reduced grip so much that the car's wheels spin and you go nowhere.

Take a look at these grip mats. They're ridged, in a zigzag pattern to give your car's drive wheels something to grip on.

The manufacturer says these mats are designed for use on mud, sand and snow. They are 40cm wide, and made from heavy-duty plastic. They're light in weight, at just 1.2kg per mat. And they are easy to store, at the base of the luggage compartment of your car or under a caravan bed or seating area.

PRICE Around **£23.99**



NEWS & VIEWS

Back British Holidays campaign appears on ITV News

The Back British Holidays campaign stepped into the national spotlight with the spokesperson, Daniel Attwood, appearing on ITV News to discuss the challenges facing UK domestic tourism.

In the interview, Daniel highlighted concerning new figures, which shown that the UK domestic holiday market was expected to fall by 32% in overall trips, from 42.3 million in 2022 to just 28.8 million in 2025. This fall would result in a cumulative loss of £23.2 billion, harming businesses, jobs and potentially causing UK holidays to fall into a spiral of irreparable decline.

"Our recommendations are that the Government put some support into the sector. Not only financial support, but also infrastructure support, as if these businesses can keep their costs lower, then the charge to guests also becomes lower. What we're talking about here is the chance to make lifelong memories, and it is just simple things like sharing where you've been on social media and that message getting across. That's what we want. We want to get that effect growing and people saying, yeah, I'm going to go away for a weekend," he said.

Sharing the message and promoting domestic holidays is the primary aim of this campaign.

Launched by Out & About Live, the Back British Holidays campaign calls for greater support and promotion of UK tourism, alongside practical steps to help the holiday industry weather current challenges.

Daniel called on policymakers and the public to recognise the urgent need to encourage more people to take holidays within the UK.

"This isn't just about numbers, it's about protecting rural businesses, supporting jobs and preserving the cherished traditions of British holidays. This campaign is a call to action for everyone to recognise the value of holidaying within the UK and work together to secure the future of our domestic tourism sector.

DANIEL ATTWOOD
Back British Holidays

Daniel Attwood, appearing on ITV News recently

The Back British Holidays campaign continues to gather momentum and support as it pushes for action to secure the future of the UK's domestic holiday sector.

● For more information about the campaign and to read the full report, visit **backbritishholidays.co.uk.**

Caravan and Motorhome Club receives two national nominations

The Caravan and Motorhome Club has received two nominations in the 2025 British Travel Awards, recognising its work in both touring holidays and escorted group trips.

The Club is shortlisted for: Best Travel Company for Touring Holidays and Best Travel Company for Escorted Group Holidays.

With over a century of touring experience and more than 2,700 sites across the UK and Europe, the Club continues to serve its 1.1 million members with a wide range of travel options.

Ben Stratton, General Manager of Tour Operations, Overseas Travel at the Caravan and Motorhome Club, said, "We are absolutely thrilled to have two nominations in the prestigious British Travel Awards. Our members are at the heart of what we do to ensure we can provide them with happy and memorable holidays. Whether they want to book a holiday in the UK or overseas, we are with them every mile of the journey."

Voting is now open to the public. Those who take part are automatically entered into a prize draw to win a holiday.

For more information or to cast a vote, visit the British Travel Awards website.

Swift joins fight to protect the UK domestic tourism sector

The Swift Group, one of the UK's leading manufacturers of caravans, motorhomes, campervans, holiday homes and lodges, has announced its support for the Back British Holidays campaign – the national initiative from Out & About Live aimed at boosting domestic tourism.

As a family-owned business based in East Yorkshire, Swift employs over 1,000 people at its 100-acre facility, producing a wide range of leisure vehicles.

With domestic tourism facing significant challenges, Swift says its commitment to the campaign reflects the importance of preserving Britain's holiday tradition.

The Swift Group says, "By supporting the Back British Holidays campaign, we are taking a stand to protect and promote the UK's rich tourism heritage."

Swift is encouraging caravanners to get involved by taking the following actions:

Signing the petition: Join the call for Government action to support UK tourism by signing the petition.

Share your stories: Use the hashtag #BackBritishHolidays to share your favourite UK holiday memories and destinations on social media.

Support local tourism: Choose British destinations for your holidays and support local businesses.

● More information can be found at:**swiftgroup.co.uk/news/backing-british-holidays**

Warners Shows news

THE WESTERN SHOW ADVICE CENTRE RETURNS

Set against the backdrop of retro Americana and classic country sounds, the Western Motorhome & Campervan Show (15–17 August, Three Counties Showground, Malvern) has long been a favourite for both newcomers and seasoned tourers. In recent years, the Out & About Live Advice Centre has been quietly gaining a reputation as a standout feature. For 2025, the line-up is the strongest yet, with three days of free talks from top names in the touring world.

Each day kicks off with a buying advice session, and there's plenty of opportunity for Q&A at the end of each talk. The sessions are open to all show visitors and are located in the Teme building at the centre of the showground.

Four-night camping packages, including access to all talks and evening entertainment, are £89.99. Day visitors can attend for just £7.99 if booked in advance. Entry for under-17s is free.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SOUTHWEST

There's a fresh buzz around the South West Motorhome & Campervan Show (5–7 September, Bath & West Showground) thanks to several exciting new additions for 2025. This year, the show welcomes the hugely popular Vanlife Eats, who will be running cooking demonstrations and workshops.

Mark, the face behind Vanlife Eats, is well known for championing creative and achievable on-tour cuisine. He'll be hosting workshops at 11am and 2pm on both Saturday and Sunday, featuring recipes like South American arepas and bubble & squeak samosas. These sessions are completely free but must be booked in advance – so get in early if you want to secure a place.

There's also a new emphasis on wellbeing and staying fit on the road. bFRANK, the health and lifestyle coaching platform run by YouTubers, Van Monkeys, will deliver a talk in the Advice Centre exploring how to prolong your travel lifestyle by taking charge of your physical and mental health.

The Western Motorhome & Campervan Show takes place at Malvern

There will also be daily morning fitness sessions, specifically designed with the 50-plus age group. No fitness experience is required – each class will be tailored to suit the individual abilities of those attending. Whether you're just getting started or already active, the bFRANK team will ensure you feel confident, supported and energised, all without the need for a gym.

For those looking to explore the local area, three coach trips will run. On Friday, you can take a journey to mystical Glastonbury and its neighbouring shopping haven, at Street. Saturday's trip heads to the historic city of Wells and the dramatic landscapes of Cheddar Gorge. Then, on Sunday, you can enjoy a visit to Bath, famous for its Georgian architecture and Roman baths.

Camping pitches start from £89.99 for four nights, which includes live music each evening. Day tickets are available for £7.99 when pre-booked, Under-17s go free.

● To view our full range of shows still to come this year, visit **outandaboutlive.co.uk/shows**

Danny and Dani Dyer host open day at Sky series park

Priory Club
Joe Crossley

Danny Dyer meeting fans at Priory Hill Holiday Park

Danny Dyer and Dani Dyer made a surprise visit to Kent, hosting an open day at Priory Hill Holiday Park as part of their new Sky TV series, The Dyers' Caravan Park.

The show, still currently filming, sees the father-daughter duo take on the challenge of running a holiday park with the goal of revitalising the great British holiday.

Visitors were treated to meet and greets, caravan tours and photo opportunities with the Dyers. Filming crews captured the event, with scenes set to appear in the six-part series airing later this year on Sky.

Dani kicked off the day by welcoming guests, before Danny arrived and mingled with fans, promoting the park's caravans for sale.

Attendees praised the event, saying the Dyers' involvement brings positive attention to UK caravan holidays and boosts interest in staycations in Kent.

brainteasers

puzzles to exercise your mind when at home or in the caravan

sudoku

If you are looking for a way to exercise your mind, sudoku is great and will certainly get the cogs turning!

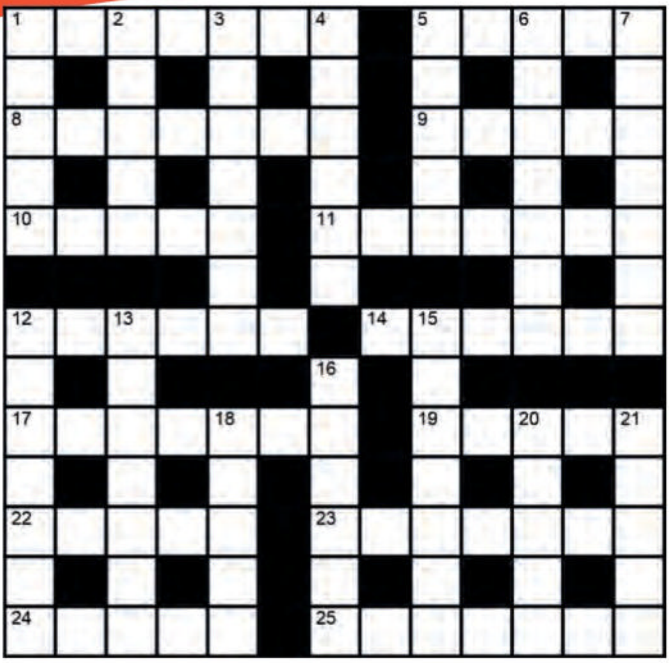
	6				5			
8	1		4	3			6	
	9							
						9		
				6	2			
7	5			1			3	
6					7			2
9					4			
	3					1	4	

just for fun

Find the 12 food-related words

O	T	O	M	A	T	O	B	E	E	T
B	G	A	E	A	O	K	R	A	N	X
R	Y	L	H	N	I	N	L	E	E	K
O	O	W	E	Y	D	Z	Q	S	T	A
C	P	N	C	N	C	I	E	A	T	L
C	H	I	I	A	T	H	V	G	L	E
O	G	I	M	O	P	I	A	E	E	I
L	N	O	V	E	N	E	L	R	L	B
I	Q	Y	U	E	N	E	R	I	D	E
L	O	C	O	R	N	T	H	P	E	A
S	W	E	D	E	D	C	O	Y	E	N

crossword



ACROSS

1 Musician playing backup for the main performer (7)

5 Yellow-brown pigment used in ancient cave paintings (5)

8 Person fleeing persecution or war (7)

9 Soiled or unclean (5)

10 Scottish city on the River Tay (5)

11 State of physical or mental tiredness (7)

12 Skilled handmade activities (6)

14 Person from Seoul or Pyongyang (6)

17 Collective leaves of a plant (7)

19 Understood without being openly expressed (5)

22 Lacking the ability to move or react (5)

23 Continue despite difficulties (5,2)

24 Showing courage or determination (5)

25 Eighth planet from the sun (7)

DOWN

1 Remove clothing or covering (5)

2 Postpone to a later time (5)

3 Extremely successful song or film (7)

4 Thin pointed tool for sewing (6)

5 Belonging to times long past (5)

6 Covered with hair (7)

7 Hardened forewing of a beetle (7)

12 Hitting lightly with an open hand (7)

13 Minor illness or physical disorder (7)

15 Rock formation visible above ground (7)

16 Church official ranking below priest (6)

18 In a suitable or appropriate manner (5)

20 Large aquatic South American rodent (5)

21 Slight trace of colour or flavour (5)

your scribbles

ANSWERS **ACROSS:** 1 sideman, 5 ochre, 8 refugee, 9 dirty, 10 Perth, 11 languor, 12 crafts, 14 Korean, 17 foliage, 19 tacit, 22 inert, 23 carry on, 24 gutsy, 25 Neptune
DOWN: 1 strip, 2 defer, 3 megahit, 4 needle, 5 olden, 6 hirsute, 7 elytron, 12 cuffing, 13 ailment, 15 outcrop, 16 deacon, 18 aptly, 20 coypu, 21 tinge

out&about LIVE

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★ OUT AND ABOUT LIVE CARAVAN DEALER OF THE YEAR 2025 ★ | FAMILY RUN BUSINESS | HUGE CHOICE OF STOCK

A Selection of **NEW CARAVANS**

SA - Single Axle **TA** - Twin Axle

2023 Eriba Touring 530 Tango Red	SOMERSET	SA	3 Berth	£31,495
2025 Bailey Pegasus Gr GT75 Messina	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£31,644
2025 Bailey Pegasus Gr GT75 Bologna	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£31,644
2025 Bailey Unicorn Deluxe Madrid	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£31,844
2024 Coachman VIP 460	SOMERSET	SA	2 Berth	£31,995
2025 Swift Sprite Gr Quattro EB Exclusive	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£31,995
2024 Elddis Crusader Mistral	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£31,995
2025 Swift Challenger Exclusive 480	SOMERSET	SA	2 Berth	£32,195
2024 Eriba Touring 420	SOMERSET	SA	2 Berth	£32,495
2025 Swift Challenger Exclusive 560	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£32,995
2024 Eriba Touring 540	SOMERSET	SA	3 Berth	£32,995
2025 Bailey Unicorn Deluxe Cabrera	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£33,044
2025 Bailey Unicorn Deluxe Vigo	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£33,044
2025 Coachman VIP 460	SOMERSET	SA	2 Berth	£33,445
2024 Eriba Touring 530 Urban Edition	SOMERSET	SA	3 Berth	£33,995
2025 Swift Challenger Grande 560 L SE	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£33,995
2024 Elddis Crusader Borealis	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£34,995
2024 Swift Challenger Grande SE 670	SOMERSET	TA	6 Berth	£34,995
2022 Swift Elegance 845	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£34,995
2024 Eriba Touring 542	SOMERSET	SA	3 Berth	£34,995
2025 Bailey Unicorn Deluxe Pamplona	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£35,644
2024 Bailey Alicanto Grande Evora	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£35,644
2025 Coachman VIP 575	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£35,995

2024 Eriba Touring 630 White Silver Finish	SOMERSET	SA	3 Berth	£35,995
2025 Swift Challenger Grande 635 SE	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£36,745
2025 Swift Challenger Grande 650 L SE	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£36,745
2024 Swift Elegance Grande 780	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£36,995
2024 Swift Elegance Grande 760	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£36,995
2025 Eriba Touring 530	SOMERSET	SA	3 Berth	£37,150
2024 Elddis Crusader Zephyr	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£37,995
2025 Swift Challenger Excl 560 L Grande	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£37,995
2025 Coachman VIP 675	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£37,995
2025 Elddis Crusader Borealis	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£37,995
2025 Bailey Alicanto Grande Deluxe Sintra	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£38,344
2025 Eriba Touring 542 Urban Edition	SOMERSET	SA	3 Berth	£38,450
2023 Swift Elegance Grande 845	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£38,745
2025 Elddis Crusader Zephyr	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£38,995
2025 Bailey Alicanto Grande Deluxe Porto	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£40,144
2025 Bailey Alicanto Grande Deluxe Alvor	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£40,144
2025 Coachman Laser 575 Xtra	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£40,535
2025 Swift Challenger Excl 670 Grande	SOMERSET	TA	6 Berth	£40,595
2024 Coachman Laser Xcel 875	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£41,995
2025 Coachman Laser 865 Xtra	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£42,720
2025 Buccaneer Cruiser	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£46,449
2025 Buccaneer Barracuda	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£47,249
2025 Coachman Lusso II	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£49,995

A Selection of **USED CARAVANS**

www.highbridgecaravans.co.uk

2022 Sprite Major 4 SB	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£19,995
2022 Sprite Major 6TD	SOMERSET	SA	6 Berth	£19,995
2023 Adria Action 361	SOMERSET	SA	2 Berth	£19,995
2023 Sprite Alpine 4	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£19,995
2017 Swift Conqueror 645	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£20,495
2018 Bailey Unicorn Cartagena	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£20,495
2018 Swift Conqueror 580	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£20,495
2022 Sprite Major 4 EB	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£20,495
2024 Swift Basecamp 2	SOMERSET	SA	2 Berth	£20,495
2024 Elddis Xplore 554	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£20,995
2021 Swift Elegance 480	DEVON	SA	2 Berth	£21,495
2022 Sprite Major 4 SB Super	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£21,495
2022 Sprite Major Super 4 SB	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£21,495
2022 Sprite Major Super 4SB	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£21,495
2023 Sprite Major 6TD	SOMERSET	SA	6 Berth	£21,495
2018 Swift Conqueror 645	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£21,995
2020 Sprite Coastline D/E Q4 EB	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£21,995
2020 Swift Challenger 645 LUX	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£21,995
2021 Adria Adora Seine	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£21,995
2023 Sprite Major 4 SB	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£21,995
2023 Sprite Major 4EB	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£21,995
2022 Adria Adora 612 DL Seine	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£22,495
2024 Sprite Major 4 SB	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£22,495
2022 Bailey Pegasus G Rimini	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£22,995
2022 Swift Conqueror 480	SOMERSET	SA	2 Berth	£22,995
2023 Bailey Unicorn V Seville	DEVON	SA	2 Berth	£22,995
2024 Elddis Affinity 520	SOMERSET	SA	2 Berth	£22,995
2025 Sprite Alpine Exclusive 2	DEVON	SA	2 Berth	£22,995
2022 Bailey Unicorn Cadiz	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£23,495

2022 Bailey Unicorn V Madrid	SOMERSET	SA	3 Berth	£23,495
2022 Sprite Quattro Super FB	SOMERSET	TA	6 Berth	£23,495
2024 Swift Celebrate 4 EB	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£23,495
2020 Swift Elegance 580	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£23,995
2024 Elddis Avante 550	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£23,995
2024 Bailey Pegasus Gt75 Ancona	DEVON	SA	5 Berth	£24,495
2022 Coachman VIP 540 Xtra	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£24,995
2020 Bailey Alicanto S1 Porto	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£25,495
2024 Elddis Affinity 550	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£25,495
2023 Bailey Pegasus Messina	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£25,995
2023 Bailey Unicorn V Cartagena	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£26,995
2023 Swift Chall Grande 560l SE	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£27,995
2023 Swift Conqueror 560	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£27,995
2020 Buccaneer Commodore	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£28,995
2024 Elddis Crusader Aurora	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£28,995
2023 Bailey Alicanto S2 Lisbon	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£29,495
2021 Buccaneer Commodore	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£29,995
2023 Swift Challenger 635 G SE	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£29,995
2022 Swift Elegance 850	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£30,995
2022 Swift Elegance 845	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£31,495
2023 Bailey Alicanto Porto	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£31,495
2021 Buccaneer Barracuda	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£31,995
2021 Buccaneer Bermuda	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£31,995
2021 Coachman Laser 845	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£31,995
2021 Coachman Laser Xcel 850	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£31,995
2024 Coachman VIP 675	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£33,995
2021 Coachman Lusso 2	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£37,995
2023 Buccaneer Bermuda	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£37,995
2022 Coachman Lusso II	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£38,995

Somerset Branch: 01278 782725
A38 Bristol Road, Highbridge, Somerset, TA9 4EX

Devon Branch: 01626 832792
Higher Brocks Plantation, Teigngrace, Newton Abbot, TQ12 6QZ

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